SATURDAY
January 7, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.6

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

A-G'S ASSURANCE

Govt. to go by SC-fixed timelines on postings

NEWS » PAGE 12

FEAT IN RAJASTHAN

A teacher's 24-year tree mission

NEWS » PAGE 14

PM PRAISES PLATOON

All-woman team to keep peace in Sudan

NEWS » PAGE 13

CHINA'S BATTLE

Zero-COVID policy to zero COVID policies

Patient influx upsets healthcare facilities

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 11

HIGH STAKES

India, Sri Lanka face off in series decider

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

'What has 'double-engine' govt. done?'

HAVERI
Renowned poet Doddarange Gowda on Friday sought to know what the State and Union governments had really done for the cause of Kannada, particularly with regard to its classical language status.
» Page 8

Wait continues for Fix My Street app launch

BENGALURU
The BBMP, which had promised to launch the 'Fix My Street' mobile application for the public to report potholes on city streets starting from January 1, has failed to do so till date. » Page 2

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 4

SC transfers to itself all pleas related to same-sex marriage

Multiple petitions are pending in Delhi, Kerala and Gujarat High Courts; Bench directs the Centre to file its response on or before February 15

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday transferred to itself petitions pending in various High Courts seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said there was broad consensus among the petitioners to shift the cases to the Supreme Court for an authoritative ruling on the issue, especially on the question whether same-sex marriage should be brought within the ambit of the Special Marriage Act of 1954.

Batches of petitions were pending before the Delhi, Kerala and Gujarat High Courts. The Bench, also comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala, directed the Centre to file its response to the petitions on or before February 15.

The court listed the case for directions on March 13.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Fight for parity

A batch of petitions is seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage. A look at what the petitioners argue:

- Sexual orientation is an **essential component** of identity and dignity which are embedded in the right to life
- Decision to marry or not is one of life's **momentous acts** of self-decision
- Law protects and recognises companionship through the **institution of marriage**
- Sexual autonomy and freedom to choose one's partner is an **intrinsic part** of the sense of selfhood

Kuki-Chin refugees from Bangladesh 'pushed back' from Mizoram, says MP

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As another round of refugee crisis brews on the Mizoram-Bangladesh border, several members of the Kuki-Chin community were "pushed back" by the Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday, according to K. Vanlalvena, a Rajya Sabha member from Mizoram.

He said not allowing the "ethnic Mizo" from Bangladesh to enter India would amount to "discrimination on ethnic grounds" as in the 1970s thousands of displaced Chakmas (mostly Buddhists) from Bangladesh were allowed to enter India and settle in Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

The MP shared a video with *The Hindu* that shows around 150 refugees, including infants, sitting in a field near Parva village.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

A video grab showing security forces distributing snacks to people, who entered Mizoram from Bangladesh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India's GDP likely to grow 7% this fiscal: NSO

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's real GDP is expected to grow 7% in 2022-23, slowing from 8.7% in FY22, as per the First Advance Estimates of National Income for the year released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Friday.

With GDP estimated to have clocked a 9.7% uptick in the first six months, the advance estimate implies that growth will moderate to 4.5% in the second half.

The NSO's estimate is based on limited data, with almost three months to go in the year, and essentially serves as an input for the Union Budget formulation exercise. Economists said some of the assumptions made about the second half were overtly rosy or grim – and could bode significant revisions ahead.

For instance, the NSO has assumed a 0.2% contraction in private consumption spending between October 2022 and March 2023, but optimistically expects an almost 12% rise in exports. For the full year, gross value added (GVA) is expected to rise 6.7%, compared with 8.1% in 2021-22, with trade, hotels, transport and communication services recording the highest GVA expansion of 13.7%.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

bigbasket
A TATA Enterprise

Why India Shops with bigbasket!
Because only bigbasket gives you the Power of Choice

bb now
Power of Speed
Daily essentials at your fingertips!
4,500+ products | 15 to 30 minutes

bb big basket
Power of Range
Groceries, Fresh and Home needs.
1,00,000+ products

Shop for ₹400.00 or more and
Get ₹100.00 off**
on your first order

Get Free Delivery
on your first 3 Orders
No Minimum Order Value

kotak | 10% instant discount*
Up to ₹100.00 on Credit & Debit Cards.
Valid from Jan. 6-10, 2023

kotak | 10% instant discount#
Up to ₹300.00 on Credit Cards &
Up to ₹250.00 on Debit Cards | Jan. 6-10, 2023

Offers valid in Bengaluru only. **Offer valid from Jan. 7 to 9, 2023. T&C apply. *Offer applicable on bb now cart. #Offer applicable on bigbasket cart. Images are for illustration purpose only. Offers valid till stocks last. bigbasket strives to offer products at discounted prices and reserves the right to change, modify or end offers and discounts without any prior notice. For more offers, detailed terms & conditions visit the bigbasket app or log on to bigbasket.com

India's largest online supermarket

PENTAGON 10589

A BG-BGE

A worrying drought with no monsoon winds in sight

K.L. Rahul is highly rated by the Indian team-management but has not scored the runs to justify his rich talent over the last year. Given his importance to a squad that will have to deal with a transition sooner or later, it's vital he finds a purple patch of form

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

Team sport can often gift a bittersweet flavour to the cogs within the unit. An athlete in the squad could either relish personal success or slump with a poor yield while the larger contingent may experience a contrasting outcome – a loss or a soaring triumph. A hundred in a losing cause and a single-digit score in a glittering win are both part of cricket's 'glorious uncertainties'.

K. Srikkanth led India to a gritty draw in a Test series, however once the dust settled on that 1989 tour of Pakistan, the skipper's poor form was held against him and he was stripped of the captaincy. Cut to the present, another opener, not exactly a maverick-swashbuckler like Srikkanth, but elegant and steady in his own right and one who led India to a 2-0 triumph over Bangladesh in the away Test series that concluded in Dhaka, is dealing with his own vagaries of form.

K.L. Rahul isn't immune to sport's whimsical nature. After a forgettable Test debut at Melbourne during the 2014-15 tour Down Under, where he proved to be a nervous wreck, rushing his shots and trudging back to the pavilion, Rahul was in his element in the next clash at Sydney and etched a 110. The second dig though was restricted to a mere 16 and it is a trend that has shadowed him often: a staggering high metamorphosing into a debilitating low.

A bridge between generations

Yet, his present drought without any monsoon winds in sight is a cause for worry. In a playing eleven largely headlined by regular skipper Rohit Sharma and his predecessor Virat Kohli, both hovering around their mid-thirties, the 30-year-old Rahul was expected to be the bridge between the generation of Rohit, Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane and the next one keen to break into the Test whites. A similar transition, perhaps a touch faster, is already at play in white-ball cricket and Rahul was supposed to be the glue.

During the Bangladesh tour, captain Rahul scored 22, 23, 10 and two in the Tests and in the preceding ODIs, he mustered 73, 14 and eight. A middling record and one in sync with his feeble imprint in international cricket over the last few seasons. A 123 in the Centurion Test against South Africa in December 2021 and a 50 and 51 against Bangladesh and Zimbabwe respectively in the 2022 ICC T20 World Cup in Australia were some rare peaks in an otherwise frustrating display of diffident outings.

That he is seen as indispensable by the team-management was often driven home in the press conferences addressed by coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit. That Rahul was handed the wicket-keeping gloves in limited-over jousts is also a pointer to the think-tank's desire of retaining him in the eleven. Besides batsmanship and a nomenclature similarity, Rahul and the Indian team coach, during their respective careers, also had to re-invent themselves in the blue shade by donning the wicket-keeping gloves.

Rahul will do well to remember that fans can be extremely fickle. This caustic surround-sound has to be ignored and he has to line the ball up and react

The vice-captaincy and the stand-in skipper role for Rahul again reveal the primacy he has within the change-rooms but this is no land where a dip in form can be masked by a leaning towards cerebral leadership. It is a leeway that was reserved for England's Mike Brearley and Rahul isn't Brearley in the captaincy sweepstakes while Brearley isn't Rahul in the art of batting.

Dravid stressed that there was nothing wrong with Rahul during the T20 World Cup campaign. Rahul himself said that he was doing his process right and seemingly stirred from his slumber, especially through those two fifties. But a purple patch with the bat has been elusive. Willow-wielders often speak about cashing in on good form because a derailment is never far.

The perils of opening

Rahul has had his moments but a century or that rare string of fifties often get lost in the single-digit scores that sneak in. Perhaps the last mentioned blip is something that openers are resigned to, exposed as they are to fresh bowlers and a mysterious surface while the middle-order dips cookies in tea and waits in the dressing room.

Decades ago in Bengaluru's tree-fringed RSI Ground, Dilip Vengsarkar rued his soft dismissals to the likes of Shoaib Mohammad. In retrospect, the Colonel felt that he should not have got complacent against part-time bowlers. Mind you, Vengsarkar back then (the mid to late 1980s) was in prime form and the former India captain was reiterating the need to capitalise when the going is good.

Plagued by a lack of runs, Rahul has to ensure that the next big knock doesn't become a tiny oasis in a vast desert. Tall and with an array of shots at his command, ranging from the drives and hooks to even the flicked six over fine-leg, Rahul is very much the modern batter. That is when he is in the flow. Else he reflects the demeanour of a man weighed down by the world. The exaggerated shuffle forward often sets him up for the LBW, the twitchy hands mean that an edge is expected and when he pre-meditates a shot both against pace and spin just to release the pressure, a fielder in the deep sights a lottery.

The numbers may not be kind to Rahul for now but there is no mistaking the talent that resides within him. He was always marked out as the special one from Karnataka even when Robin Uthappa, Manish Pandey, Karun Nair and later Mayank Agarwal drew attention to their skill-sets with the bat. The Kannadiga with roots in Mangaluru shifted to Bengaluru to hone his cricket and sweated it out at the National Cricket Academy.

Plagued by a lack of runs, Rahul has to ensure that the next big knock doesn't become a tiny oasis in a vast desert

K.L. RAHUL

Life in the public eye

Once during an interview, he requested that the tattoos on his limbs should not be shown in the pictures accompanying the feature. Those were early days and Rahul wanted his cricket to be the focus. Now he is an established star, a man of the world and a wedding seems imminent even as he deals with the misogyny that has reared its ugly head, with toxic social-media users blaming his lady-love for his poor form. Rahul will do well to remember that fans can be extremely fickle. Ravi Shastri during his playing days and Ravindra Jadeja from among Rahul's peers have all coped with the brutality of the fandom's ire.

The ideal state

This caustic surround-sound has to be ignored and Rahul has to line the ball up and react. Sport is a distillation of excellence across seconds, Rahul has to get into that ideal state. It is not impossible for a player whose WhatsApp status-message is "No Guts. No Glory. No Legend. No Story." And once all this settles, he can dig into a 'gadbad' ice-cream at Ideal or Pabbas in Mangaluru.

GETTY IMAGES

Last year's numbers are not kind to Rahul. He has really struggled in the classical format while his white-ball stats are middling

Rahul in 2022

Tests
- **8** innings
- **137** runs
- **17.12** average
- **0** hundreds
- **1** fifty

ODIs
- **9** innings
- **251** runs
- **27.88** average
- **80.19** strike-rate
- **2** fifties

T20Is
- **16** innings
- **434** runs
- **28.93** average
- **126.53** strike-rate
- **6** fifties

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	19	6,820	17
2	Rafael Nadal	36	6,020	14
3	Casper Ruud	24	5,820	23
4	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	5,550	23
5	Novak Djokovic	35	4,820	14
6	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	4,195	26
7	Daniil Medvedev	26	4,065	21
8	Andrey Rublev	25	3,930	23
9	Taylor Fritz	25	3,355	22
10	Hubert Hurkacz	25	2,905	21
11	Holger Rune	19	2,888	27
12	Alexander Zverev	25	2,700	18
13	Pablo Carreno Busta	31	2,495	24
14	Cameron Norrie	27	2,445	23
15	Jannik Sinner	21	2,410	18

Top Indians ▸

Sasikumar Mukund
Rank 340 ▲▼ No change

Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 348 ▲▼ No change

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	21	11,085	17
2	Ons Jabeur	28	5,055	18
3	Jessica Pegula	28	4,691	18
4	Caroline Garcia	29	4,375	23
5	Aryna Sabalenka	24	3,925	21
6	Maria Sakkari	27	3,871	22
7	Coco Gauff	18	3,646	19
8	Daria Kasatkina	25	3,435	23
9	Veronika Kudermetova	25	2,795	20
10	Simona Halep	31	2,661	15
11	Madison Keys	27	2,417	20
12	Belinda Bencic	25	2,365	19
13	Paula Badosa	25	2,363	21
14	Danielle Collins	29	2,287	13
15	Beatriz Haddad Maia	26	2,215	24

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 266 ▲ 18 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 268 ▼ 4 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	17	14	2	1	40	14	26	44
2	Man. City	17	12	3	2	45	16	29	39
3	Newcastle	18	9	8	1	32	11	21	35
4	Man. United	17	11	2	4	27	20	7	35
5	Tottenham	18	10	3	5	37	25	12	33
6	Liverpool	17	8	4	5	34	22	12	28
7	Fulham	18	8	4	6	30	27	3	28
8	Brighton	17	8	3	6	32	25	7	27
9	Brentford	18	6	8	4	30	28	2	26
10	Chelsea	17	7	4	6	20	19	1	25
11	Aston Villa	18	6	4	8	20	26	-6	22
12	Crystal Palace	17	6	4	7	17	25	-8	22
13	Leicester City	18	5	2	11	26	31	-5	17
14	Leeds United	17	4	5	8	25	31	-6	17
15	Forest	18	4	5	9	13	34	-21	17
16	Bournemouth	18	4	4	10	18	39	-21	16
17	West Ham United	18	4	3	11	15	24	-9	15
18	Everton	18	3	6	9	14	24	-10	15
19	Wolves	18	3	5	10	11	27	-16	14
20	Southampton	18	3	3	12	15	33	-18	12

Italian Serie A Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Napoli	16	13	2	1	37	13	24	41
2	AC Milan	16	11	3	2	31	16	15	36
3	Juventus	16	10	4	2	25	7	18	34
4	Inter Milan	16	11	0	5	35	22	13	33
5	Lazio	16	9	3	4	27	13	14	30
6	Roma	16	9	3	4	19	14	5	30
7	Atalanta	16	8	4	4	24	17	7	28
8	Udinese	16	6	7	3	25	18	7	25
9	Torino	16	6	4	6	17	18	-1	22
10	Fiorentina	16	5	5	6	19	21	-2	20
11	Bologna	16	5	4	7	20	26	-6	19
12	Lecce	16	4	6	6	16	18	-2	18
13	Empoli	16	4	6	6	13	20	-7	18
14	Salernitana	16	4	5	7	20	26	-6	17
15	Monza	16	5	2	9	17	23	-6	17
16	Sassuolo	16	4	4	8	16	24	-8	16
17	Spezia	16	3	5	8	16	28	-12	14
18	Sampdoria	16	2	3	11	8	28	-20	9
19	Cremonese	16	0	7	9	11	27	-16	7
20	Verona	16	1	3	12	13	30	-17	6

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	15	12	2	1	34	6	28	38
2	Real Madrid	15	12	2	1	35	14	21	38
3	Real Sociedad	15	9	2	4	21	17	4	29
4	Atletico Madrid	15	8	3	4	23	14	9	27
5	Athletic Bilbao	15	7	4	4	24	14	10	25
6	Real Betis	15	7	4	4	17	12	5	25
7	Villarreal	15	7	3	5	17	11	6	24
8	Rayo Vallecano	15	6	5	4	22	18	4	23
9	Osasuna	15	7	2	6	16	16	0	23
10	Valencia	15	5	4	6	23	17	6	19
11	Real Mallorca	15	5	4	6	13	15	-2	19
12	Girona	15	4	5	6	22	24	-2	17
13	Almeria	15	5	2	8	17	23	-6	17
14	Getafe	15	4	5	6	14	20	-6	17
15	Real Valladolid	15	5	2	8	13	23	-10	17
16	Espanyol	15	2	7	6	17	23	-6	13
17	Celta Vigo	15	3	4	8	15	27	-12	13
18	Sevilla	15	2	6	7	14	23	-9	12
19	Cadiz	15	2	6	7	10	27	-17	12
20	Elche	15	0	4	11	10	33	-23	4

German Bundesliga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	15	10	4	1	49	13	36	34
2	SC Freiburg	15	9	3	3	25	17	8	30
3	RB Leipzig	15	8	4	3	30	21	9	28
4	Eintracht	15	8	3	4	32	24	8	27
5	Union Berlin	15	8	3	4	24	20	4	27
6	Dortmund	15	8	1	6	25	21	4	25
7	Wolfsburg	15	6	5	4	24	20	4	23
8	M'gladbach	15	6	4	5	28	24	4	22
9	Werder	15	6	3	6	25	27	-2	21
10	Mainz	15	5	4	6	19	24	-5	19
11	Hoffenheim	15	5	3	7	22	22	0	18
12	Leverkusen	15	5	3	7	25	26	-1	18
13	Cologne	15	4	5	6	21	29	-8	17
14	FC Augsburg	15	4	3	8	18	26	-8	15
15	Hertha Berlin	15	3	5	7	19	22	-3	14
16	Stuttgart	15	3	5	7	18	27	-9	14
17	Bochum	15	4	1	10	14	36	-22	13
18	Schalke	15	2	3	10	13	32	-19	9

Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Marnus Labuschagne	925	937
2	Steve Smith	883	947
3	Babar Azam	882	882
4	Travis Head	833	833
5	Kane Williamson	828	919
6	Joe Root	826	923
7	Rishabh Pant	797	801
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	748	782
9	Rohit Sharma	732	813
10	Daryl Mitchell	716	716

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	872	914
2	James Anderson	835	903
3	Jasprit Bumrah	812	835
4	R. Ashwin	812	904
5	Ollie Robinson	805	805
6	Kagiso Rabada	797	902
7	Shaheen Afridi	795	836
8	Kyle Jamieson	780	836
9	Mitchell Starc	757	806
10	Trent Boult	732	825

ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	890	898
2	Imam-ul-Haq	779	815
3	Rassie van der Dussen	766	796
4	Quinton de Kock	759	813
5	David Warner	747	880
6	Steve Smith	719	752
7	Jonny Bairstow	710	796
8	Virat Kohli	707	911
9	Rohit Sharma	705	885
10	Kane Williamson	700	799

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	752	775
2	Josh Hazlewood	727	733
3	Mitchell Starc	665	783
4	Matt Henry	663	691
5	Shaheen Afridi	661	688
6	Rashid Khan	659	806
7	Adam Zampa	655	655
8	Shaikb Al Hasan	652	717
9	Mustaafizur Rahman	638	695
10	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	637	712

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Suryakumar Yadav	883	895
2	Mohammad Rizwan	836	875
3	Devon Conway	788	831
4	Babar Azam	778	896
5	Aiden Markram	748	796
6	Dawid Malan	719	915
7	Glenn Phillips	699	703
8	Rilee Rossouw	693	693
9	Aaron Finch	680	900
10	Pathum Nissanka	655	698

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Wanindu Hasaranga	709	797
2	Rashid Khan	698	816
3	Adil Rashid	692	746
4	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
5	Sam Curran	688	688
6	Tabraiz Shamsi	681	821
7	Adam Zampa	678	743
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	677	745
9	Anrich Nortje	659	695
10	Maheesh Theekshana	655	680

Yet again, BBMP fails to launch Fix My Street app to report potholes

This comes even as the civic body had recently claimed to have closed all potholes, but traffic police identified over a 1,000 of them on the main roads in the last week of December

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Six persons were killed in pothole-related accidents in Bengaluru in 2022 and Karnataka High Court recently directed police to register FIRs in cases of such accidents in the city. FILE PHOTO

Even as the city roads refuse to be free of potholes, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), which had promised to launch the 'Fix My Street' mobile application for the public to report potholes on city streets starting from January 1, has failed to do so till date.

In December 2022, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had announced that the 'Fix My Street' mobile application would be launched on January 1 where people can report potholes. Once ratified by a civic official, the app will automatically generate a work order to fill them.

The announcement was welcomed by many including leading industrialists like Kiran Mazumdar Shaw.

Barrage of complaints

This comes even as the civic body had recently claimed to have closed all potholes, but traffic police identified over a 1,000 of them on the main roads in the last week of December.

A total of six persons were killed in accidents due to potholes in the city in 2022 and Karnataka High Court recently directed police to register FIRs in cases of pothole accidents in December.

The mobile app was launched in 2017 for the public. However, it was closed in 2019 due to technical issues.

It has been alleged that the app was closed for public because of a barrage of complaints that the civic body was not able to keep track of. Sources said even now there is resistance to open the app for public.

Response from BBMP

A senior civic official said BBMP was serious and would open the app for public soon.

The official said, "Earlier the app was available only for officials and now the app will be available to the general public. But the app has been updated with new features and the development of the application is causing the delay. There are some technical glitches which are being fixed by the officials. Once the app is launched, people can start sending complaints regarding potholes on the app and it will have to be certified by the jurisdictional assistant engineer. Once certified, the work order gets generated automatically. In case of major roads, it will go to the 'Python' contractor who has been entrusted with the maintenance of 182 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads. In case of other stretches, the work order will be sent to the hot mix plant."

More than 100 varieties of dishes at Avarebele Mela

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There are around 40 stalls at the Avarebele Mela, organised by Shree Vasavi Condiments at National College ground, from January 5 to 9.

The season of avare (bean) is officially in as multiple melas have begun in Bengaluru where the delicacies of the bean can be savoured. The most popular Avarebele Mela, organised by Shree Vasavi Condiments, opened on Thursday at the National College ground, and is on till Monday.

Along with the usual avare dosa, avare mixture and new dishes like avare samosa, avare puff and Appu avare sweet (in memory of actor Puneeth Rajkumar) will be available at the mela. Around 40 stalls will offer over 100 varieties of avare dishes at the mela this year.

"As the venue is spacious, we are expecting around 10,000 persons per day. We have seating arrangements and organised cultural shows. Other than favourites like avarekal payasa, vada and avarekai gobi manchurian, we have introduced a new variety - avarekal peri peri masala this time," said Swathi. K.S., owner, Vasavi condiments.

Happy customers

Lalita Ganjam, who has been visiting the fair for the past 5 years, said, "Avarekai is a much-favoured ingredient in our household. In our house, we make vade, dose, sweet halwa, payasa, palya, and so many more dishes with avarekalu."

Owing to the incessant rains in 2022, cultivation of avare had taken a hit in Kolar, Magadi, and other areas. Many farmers had also given up farming leaving the traders worried about the quality and quantity of the bean.

Supply of avarekai this season in Bengaluru's markets is low and prices are hovering over ₹50 per kilo. For the Avarebele Mela, the beans are sourced from Magadi, Chintamani and parts of Kolar.

Harvest your own avare

At Ragihalli, an eco-sensitive zone near Bannerghatta National Park, a unique, experiential Avarekai Habba will be hosted on the four Saturdays of January. For a fee of ₹800, visitors can harvest the bean in the fields, cook them, have their lunch in the village, bake with ragi, participate in pickle tasting and vinegar making session, and participate in other such activities.

Vishala Padmanabhan of Buffalo Back, who is organising the event, said, "We have been promoting organic farming for the last couple of years. This year, we started field schools and taught them to grow nine crops, and avare was one of them.

"This will be a totally different experience as harvesting and cooking fresh avare will make it much tastier. It will be a simple food, where we will highlight the flavour of avarekai without much masala. Visitors can also bake at the Ragihalli bakery run by 25 women."

20th Chitra Santhe to be held tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 20th edition of Chitra Santhe will be organised on Sunday at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath and neighbouring streets of Kumara Krupa and Crescent Road. More than 1,500 artists from all over India are expected to participate in the Santhe. The Parishath is organising this year's Santhe in association with Higher Education Department. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will inaugurate the event.

While the previous year's Santhe was dedicated to 75 years of Indian independence, this edition will be dedicated to artists to highlight their struggles during the Covid pandemic. This year's Santhe will take place in physical form while an online virtual gallery portal will be set up for artists to display their art works. The footfall at the Santhe is expected to be around 4 lakh on Sunday. "Mysore and Tanjore Traditional painting, Rajasthani, Madhubani style artworks, various other traditional, modern and contemporary art works in various forms like water colour, oil, acrylic, pencil, ink drawings and similar genres and styles will be on display and offered for sale," said K.S. Appajiah, General Secretary, of the Parishath.

Bird festival begins

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The ninth edition of three-day Karnataka Bird Festival began at Kolluru in Udupi district on Friday.

Organised by the Ecotourism Development Board in association with the Forest Department and Jungle Lodges and Resorts Pvt. Ltd, the festival has been organised to sensitise people over 500 species of birds to which Karnataka plays home. The festival will end on Sunday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my clients Ms. Kavya.K. and Ms. Divya.K. who are the daughters of Mr. M. Katappa, R/at No.28, 7th Cross, Chikkabanasawadi, Bangalore-43., were the nominal Directors of M/s STSK Prop Tech Private Limited, having its office at No. 195/6/2, 3rd Floor, Beratena Agrahara Ward No. 192, Hosur Road, Lavakusanagar, Electronic City, Bengaluru-560 100., for some time. My client Ms. Kavya.K. had tendered her resignation to directorship of the above said company on 05.03.2022 and handed over to Mr. Y. Shivakumar S/o Yallappa and the company had passed a resolution dtd. 03.12.2022 by accepting the resignation of Ms. Kavya.K. and the same has been submitted to the Registrar of companies, Karnataka, Bangalore. Similarly Ms. Divya.K. also tendered her resignation to the directorship of the above said company, on 15.12.2021 and handed over to Mr. Y. Shivakumar S/o Yallappa and the said resignation has been submitted to the Registrar of companies, Karnataka, Bangalore on 01.08.2022. My clients have already tendered their respective resignations to the directorship of the above said company long back. My clients are no more directors of the above said company and they are no way concerned to the business transactions if any entered in the name of the above said company by Mr. Y. Shivakumar and other persons who claims to be the Managing Director and Senior Manager of the above said company with some third parties. My clients have not participated in any of the business transactions of the above said company at any point of time. Further my clients have also not entered in to any kind of agreements with any individual or firm or company with regard to the business transactions in the name of the said company. Further the transactions is any entered by any person/s earlier or in future with Mr. Y. Shivakumar and other persons in the name of the above said company and also having any claim in the business transactions with the above said company may approach Mr. Y. Shivakumar who is the sole responsible person for all business transactions of the said company. My clients are no way responsible for any business or financial transactions and acts done in the name of M/s STSK Prop Tech Private Limited by Mr. Y. Shivakumar and others with any person/s, firm or company in past or in future, because the said Mr. Y. Shivakumar alone had done all business / financial transactions with some third parties in the name of the above said company, hence Mr. Y. Shivakumar is sole responsible for all financial/business transactions which were/are done in the name of M/s STSK Prop Tech Private Limited.

M. MURALI BABU, Advocate
No. 21/2, 3rd Floor, 1st Main Road,
Opposite to Indian Overseas Bank, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru-560 009. Mobile No. 9448810418
Bangalore, Date : 19.12.2022

SAI

E-Tender Notice

Date: - 06.01.2023

Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bangalore invites e-tender for following works: -

- SAI/NSSC/ENGG/NIT-4/2022-23 for Repairing of Pointing of Existing Stone Masonry Walls of CoE Kitchen & Dining Hall at SAI, NSSC, Bangalore.

For more details please visit E-Tender website **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**, **https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in** & **http://www.saisouth-bangalore.com**.

The Last date of Submission of E-Tender is **13.01.2023** up to **16.00** hrs.

Sd/-,
Regional Director I/C

SAI

E-Tender Notice

Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bangalore invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for following: -

SAI/NSSC/ENGG/NIT-5/2022-23 to Appoint a Management Operator to Operate & Maintain FIFA Standard Artificial Football Turf at SAI, NSSC, Bangalore.

For more details please visit E-Tender website **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**, **https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in/sai/**, **http://www.saisouth-bangalore.com**.

The Last date of Submission of E-Tender is **30.01.2023** up to **16.00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Regional Director I/C

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large on behalf of our client Mr. Dinesh Laxman Yadave son of Laxman Daya Yadave, aged about 74 years, currently Residing at 10A, Bower Mount Road, Maidstone Kent, ME16 8AU.

That our client Mr. Dinesh Laxman Yadave purchased a row house bearing Villa No. 10 in the project known as 'Pride Orchid' formed out of converted land bearing Sy No. 32/1A&B, and house list No. 53/32/1B-10 (Old No.45/32/1-10) Ramagondanahally Village Panchayath, Toobarahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk vide Sale Deed dated 25/05/2007 and Registered as Document No. BNG (U) -VRT 984/2007-08, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Varthur Bangalore which is morefully described in the Schedule hereunder.

That the original Power of Attorney issued by the previous owners Mr. Ramesh Kumar Adatia and Mr. Kantilal Mohanlal B Tailor issued in favour of Nirmala Narayan for sale of the Schedule property to Mr. Dinesh Laxman Yadave and the original Power of Attorney dated 26/10/2006 issued by Mr. Dinesh Laxman Yadave in favour of Mr. Pinal Joshi for purchase of the Schedule property has been misplaced and not traceable. That any person in possession or if found may be pleased to return the original Power of Attorneys to the undersigned within 7 days of publication of this Public Notice.

That the our Client has registered police complainant through e-lost Report No. 0419317/2022 dated 19/12/2022.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of row house bearing Villa No. 10 formed out of converted land bearing Sy No. 32/1A &B, and house list No. 53/32/1B -10 (Old No. 45/32/1-10) issued by Ramagondanahally Village Panchayath, Toobarahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring on the East to West 55 Feet and North to South 27 Feet, in all measuring 1485 square feet along with row house bearing No.10, and measuring 2450 super built up area comprising of garden space in the front/ rear and the terrace above the first floor with all amenities and along with one car parking and bounded as follows :- East By : Road , West By: Private Property, North By: Property bearing Katha No. 53/32/1B-9, South By : Property bearing Katha No. 53/32/1B-11

Signed
Taji George
Advocate
M/s. George & Co, Advocates
No. 608, 'A' Wing, Mittal Tower,
M.G Road, Bangalore 560 001
Phone : 080 2558 3344.
Bangalore
Date 7th January, 2023

भारतीय खाद्य निगम
FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय स. १०, पूर्वी छोर, मुख्य मार्ग, चौथा ब्लॉक, जयनगर
REGIONAL OFFICE No.10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, बेंगलूरु/BENGALURU - 560041

सं. आरओ केए-32.0011.0/1/2023-कॉन-गो केए दिनांक: 05.01.2023
No. RO KA-32.0011.0/1/2023-CON-RO KA Date: 05.01.2023

ई-निविदा सूचना/e-Tender Notice

ऑनलाइन निविदाएं जी ई एम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत दो वर्ष हेतु **1) एफएसडी विजयपुरा में एचटीसी, 2) रेल साइडिंग / एफएसडी बल्लारी** के लिए एचटीसी, आमंत्रित की जा रही है। एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर उपलब्ध हैं। ऑनलाइन बोलियां **30.01.2023 को अपराह्न 02:00** बजे तक प्रस्तुत की जानी हैं। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।

Online Tenders for regular **1) HTC at FSD Vijayapura, 2) HTC at RS/FSD Ballari** for two years is invited under **"Two Bid System"** through GeM portal. NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in"**. Bid should be submitted online within **2.00PM on 30.01.2023.** For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**

महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (KTK)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. MANU S, S/o. Mr. Somesh N, his intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner Mr. S. Rajendran S/o. Late. S. Sethuraman Residing at No. 52, Kubera Sampath, 18th Cross Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 055.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Residential plot No.41, CMC katha No. 322/2391/872/41 measuring East to West 40 Ft. and North to South 30 Feet in all measuring 1200 Sq. Ft. in the Layout Known as "RITE PRISTINA" formed out of converted land bearing Sy. No.146/1, situated at situated at Banandur Dakle, Bairavanadoddi Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk , and bounded on :- East by : Plot No. 38, West by : Road, North by : Plot No. 42, South by : Plot No. 40.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, # 96, 1 Floor, 1 Main, 4 Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
BANGALORE, DATE : 06-01-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Aarthi Malaphatti W/o. Sri. Anto Sebastian intend to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owner Smt. Thriveni B, W/o. Sri. Lokesha V, residing at No. 99, Baguru Village, Chikkathirupathi Road, Bangalore Rural District, -563160.

If any persons having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Agricultural Land bearing old Sy. No.54/4 New Sy. No. 54/9, measuring to an extent of 10.08 guntas, situated at Baguru Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, bounded on: East by : Sri. Murgesh's Land, West by : Government Road, North by : Rangappa's Ramesh's land, South by : Sri.Venkateshappa's Land.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
BANGALORE, DATE : 06-01-2023

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ
Office : 08226-222035 Email : itstaff_ulb_chamarajanagar@yahoo.co.in
Website : www.chamarajanagaracity.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :- CMC/HS/DRIVERS/PR/01/2022-23 Date : 29-12-2022

(E-Procurement Portal)

Transparency in Karnataka Public Procurement Rules and Disposal of Solid Waste Material in Chamarajanagara Municipal General Fund Grant as per the latest amendment. E-tenders are invited from authorized contractors/agencies through e-procurement portal in two cover system for manpower supply. Details are uploaded in E-Portal:- Last date for tender submission 18-01-2023 up to 5:30 PM Date of Tender Opening : 20-01-2023 at 5:30 PM.

Sl. No.	Details	No.	Tender Amount (Rs. Lakhs)	EMD
1	Indent No:CMC/HS/DRIVERS/PRNO/1/2022-23	42	99.26	1,98,600/-

Sd/- President, CMC, Chamarajanagar **Sd/- Vice President, CMC, Chamarajanagar** **Sd/- Commissioner CMC, Chamarajanagar**

DIPR: CHANAGAR:503:2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
KALAYAN KARNATAKA REGION DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Opp. Aiwan-E-Shahi, Kalaburagi-585102, Karnataka, Phone No: 08472-256767
Fax No: 08472-227527, hkadbgulb@gmail.com

No. KKRDB/TECH/240/2022-23 Date: 05.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement System)

The Secretary, KKRDB, Kalaburagi hereby invites separate Technical and Financial Bids for **"Supply of Printed Practice Papers for improvements towards 10th Standard Results for the Students"** through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka, Firms willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e-procurement portal.

The tender document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. EMD is Rs.2,00,000/-

Event Date: 1) Date of publishing the RFP Document: 05.01.2023. 2) Last date and time for submission of Proposal (Proposal Due Date): 13.01.2023 upto 16:00 hrs. 3) Date and time for opening of Technical Proposal: 16.01.2023 at 16:30 hrs. 4) Date and time for opening of Financial Proposal: 17.01.2023 at 11:00 hrs

DIP/Kalaburagi/1076/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Deputy Secretary, Kalyan Karnataka Region Development Board, Kalaburagi

CAUTION NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the property mentioned below in the schedule (Schedule Property) is owned by Smt. Parvathamma, wife of Late Anjinappa, Smt. Jayamma @ Lakshmidevamma, wife of Late K.N. Venkataramaiah, Sri. K.V. Jagannath, foster s/o Late Narayanamma, residents of Ward No.14, Mission Ramaswamy Road, Kandavara, Chikkaballapura, Karnataka-562 103. The documents mentioned here below with respect to the Schedule Property are lost/misplaced.

1. Original Sale Deed dated 24-08-1936, executed by Thirumalamma, D/o Dodda Appojappa in favor of Narayanaswamy, S/o Katarappa, registered as Document No.228/36-37 of Book I, Volume 431, pages 312 to 319, in the office of the SRO, Chikkaballapura.
2. Original Sale Deed dated 21-06-1961, executed by Narayanawamy, s/o Katarappa, in favor of Thirumalamma, registered on 14-07-1961 as registered as Document No.950/1961-62 of Book I, Volume 861, pages 177 to 181, in the office of the SRO, Chikkaballapura.
3. Original Will dated 30-04-1964, executed by Narayanswamy, s/o Katarappa, registered as Document No. 5/64-65 of Book III, volume 14, pages 70 to 73, in the office of the SRO, Chikkaballapura.

If anybody finds or in possession of the above mentioned documents, they are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned and the public in general are hereby informed not to deal with the any person who may approach with original documents with respect of the Schedule Property in any manner and in spite of this notice if anybody deals with the Schedule Property, they will be doing so at their own cost and risk and the same will not bind on my client in any manner and the person will not get any right through the said transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the residentially converted land bearing Survey No. 244, measuring 3 Acres 27 Guntas, (and 5 Guntas of KarabLand) and Survey No.245/1, measuring 1 Acre 37 Guntas, both situated at Kandavara Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District.

Harsha H M, Advocate
UniLegal, No.511, Ground Floor, 6th Main,
9th Cross, Sadashivanagar,
Bangalore - 560 080.
Ph: 080-48514560/ (M) 9844390581
Chikkaballapur Date: 06-01-2023

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580 • Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

AUTOMOTIVE

FORD WILLYS jeep 1942 Left Hand Drive Peugeot diesel engine immaculate condition contact 9886330773

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHIVAPPA K C S/O CHANDRAPPA, R/O #248, Kadirenahali, Kadirenahalli, Magondhi, Kolar, Bangarapet, Karnataka–563114, Have changed my name to SHIVA K C.

I, VIRANCHI Shukla, S/o Sharad Shukla, R/O. 175, 1st F crs, 3rd stg, 4th blk, basaveshwaranagar, Blr–79, have changed my name as Viranchi Sharad Shukla, vide affidavit dated 04/01/2023

I, NIRMALA, R/a No.67/4, Vishnupriya Apt, 1st Flr, Surveyor St, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004 have changed my name to Nirmala Upparapalli vide affidavit dt: 04.01.2023 sworn before Notary Smt.A.Manjula, B'lore.

I, NAZEEM Khan Sheik Mohamed R/at No.4, 4th Main Road, Near Mina Masjid Mattadahalli, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032 have changed my name to Yasin Khan vide affidavit dated 02-01-2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M. N, Bengaluru.

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ANTHRO
INTERVIEW SESSIONS
Starting Jan 8
Session 1: Jan 8
Session 2: Jan 13 } ***Expected Q&A***
- ***One-to-One with* Vaid Sir**
- ***Mock Interview(s)***
- ***As per candidates' convenience***

Email your request to vaidsics@gmail.com

VAID'S ICS, DELHI

NEXT BATCHES STARTING APRIL 2023

Can Cody Gakpo spark a Liverpool turnaround?

The Reds, languishing outside the Champions League qualification spots, will hope their January signing hits the ground running. What does the in-demand Dutch forward bring to the mix?

Reuters
Agence France-Presse

Weakened by injuries and plagued by inconsistent form, Liverpool has endured an incredibly challenging Premier League season. With eight wins, four draws and five losses, Jurgen Klopp's Reds have looked well off the pace for Champions League qualification and are currently outside the top four; they will need a stunning turnaround to have any chance of contending for the title.

To remedy matters, Liverpool acted swiftly in the January transfer window, securing the signature of Cody Gakpo, the highly sought-after Dutch forward. The 23-year-old, who scored three goals for the Netherlands at the World Cup, joined the Merseyside club from PSV Eindhoven for a reported initial fee of 42 million euros. Gakpo bagged 55 goals and supplied 50 assists in 159 appearances for PSV, which included a red-hot streak of nine goals and 12 assists in 14 Eredivisie games before the World Cup break.

Mutlipronged strategy

Liverpool's move, in theory, did three things: it addressed an immediate need, providing attacking reinforcement for a side that has lost Luis Diaz to a knee injury and Diogo Jota to a calf problem; it prevented a direct rival from strengthening, for British media reports said Manchester United was also chasing Gakpo; it also future-proofed the forward line, ensuring a replacement has the time to be ready before Mohamed Salah (30) and Roberto Firmino (31) need replacing.

"There is a lot to like about Cody," Klopp told the club's official website, explaining the thought process behind the signing. "He is still only 23 but he already has a lot of experience. He was the captain of PSV, he was the player of the year in Holland last season and, as a lot of people have just seen, he also had a great World Cup.

"It is clear that he is already a really, really good player, but his age also means he has the potential to become even better. Offensively, he is very versatile and, on top of this, we know he is a smart footballer and a smart person, so we are really excited to be able to work with him."

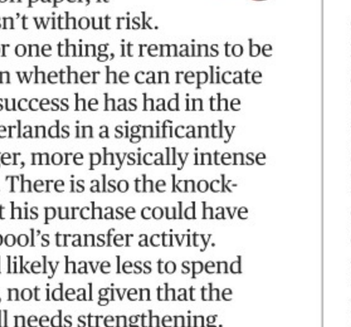
> I think this is a great club for me to come in and try to show what I can [do] and help the team to achieve more beautiful moments
>
> CODY GAKPO

While the Gakpo move makes eminent sense on paper, it isn't without risk.

For one thing, it remains to be seen whether he can replicate the success he has had in the Netherlands in a significantly stronger, more physically intense league. There is also the knock-on effect his purchase could have on Liverpool's transfer activity. Klopp will likely have less to spend in January, not ideal given that the midfield still needs strengthening.

"I would say in principle it's like this for all people in the world: the money you spend has an impact on the money you can spend [in the future]," Klopp said. "We know what we want to do and we will see if we can do it. [But] I don't want to disappoint anybody, we signed an outstanding player and the next thing you read is, 'Who next?' We cannot play like Monopoly."

However Liverpool has a history of smart market moves and it is possible for the recruitment department to find value in a midfield buy. But even accounting for this, the Gakpo transfer has to work if the club has to have its best shot at climbing up a crowded league table.



And given the stakes involved – the financial benefit of qualifying for the Champions League is central to Liverpool's business model and its ability to participate in the summer transfer window – the club will hope Gakpo can hit the ground running.

So, what are the chances of the 23-year-old succeeding in England? He is one of the rarer profiles in football: a 'big-body' wide forward, standing well over six feet tall. That, in itself, offers his team a point of difference.

He has a powerful burst, with enough pace to make a back-line anxious. Cutting in from the left to curl his finish to the keeper's far post is his signature move, something he picked up from Thierry Henry, one of his idols. "I watched clips of him and tried to learn something from him: the way he comes in from the left and shoots with his right," Gakpo said. "I tried to copy him a bit." But he can go past his rival full-back on the outside as well, which makes him even more potent.

Dribbler with purpose

He has good feet for a big man: his dribbling isn't as spectacular as, say, Antony's, but it's efficient. He frequently creates separation, finding the space to shoot, cross or combine with his teammates. Gakpo can function as an outlet and a transitional threat, but can also unlock low-blocks in settled play with one-touch passes and penetrating runs.

What Gakpo is truly elite at is ball-striking, off both feet. This makes him an excellent crosser and long-passer; more to the point, it makes him a dangerous goal threat even from less than optimal positions.

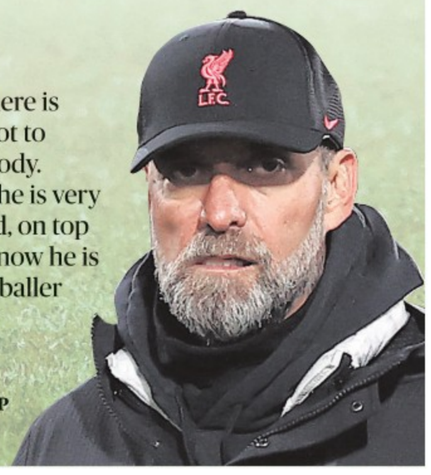
It will be interesting to watch whether his physicality translates from Dutch to English – he bullied defenders in the Eredivisie – but it's almost certain that his ball-striking will.

The defensive side of his game has drawn criticism in the past, especially his pressing intensity. But Klopp is unlikely to have made a long-term decision without being sure that Gakpo will give him what he wants without the ball. The Dutch international is also driven to improve: in addition to training, he works with Tactalyse, a company which offers individual tactical coaching, with an emphasis on the small details. "Cody wanted to raise the bar and be more efficient," Loran Vrielink, founder of Tactalyse, told BBC Sport. "He invests in himself."

Gakpo's versatility makes him the ideal multifunctional Klopp player, one who can essay several roles in a team which plays with fluidity within a compact structure. "The position he played most often is on the left but he can play different positions," said Klopp. "He can play all four positions up front. Whatever you play, if you play a 4-2-3-1 he can play all four positions, in a 4-3-3 he can be the winger, if you play 4-4-2 he can play the wing and the striker positions."

Gakpo is yet to kick a ball for Liverpool, but what he does over the rest of the season will have a significant impact on the club's fortunes. Louis van Gaal, the Netherlands coach, said the young man has "everything it takes to become a star" and the potential to make a difference at the highest level. Liverpool fans will hope that those words come true over the next few months.

> There is a lot to like about Cody. Offensively, he is very versatile and, on top of this, we know he is a smart footballer and a smart person
>
> JURGEN KLOPP

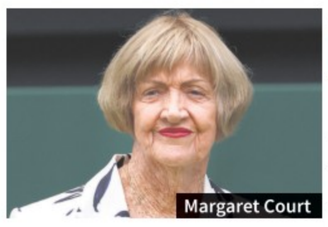


GETTY IMAGES

GAME THEORY

Trophy collectors Down Under

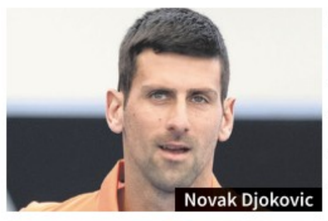
With the Australian Open set to start in a little over a week, we take a look at the most successful champions at the event. The tournament began as the Australasian Championships in 1905, became the Australian Championships in 1927 and took its final form as the Australian Open when the Open Era commenced in 1969.


Margaret Court

Serena Williams

MOST TITLES: WOMEN

Player	Titles	Editions won
Margaret Court	11	1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973
Serena Williams	7	2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2015, 2017
Nancye Wynne	6	1937, 1940, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1951
Daphne Akhurst	5	1925, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1930
Evonne Goolagong	4	1974, 1975, 1976, 1977(Dec)
Steffi Graf	4	1988, 1989, 1990, 1994
Monica Seles	4	1991, 1992, 1993, 1996
Joan Hartigan	3	1933, 1934, 1936
Martina Navratilova	3	1981, 1983, 1985
Martina Hingis	3	1997, 1998, 1999


Novak Djokovic

Roy Emerson

MOST TITLES: MEN

Player	Titles	Editions won
Novak Djokovic	9	2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021
Roy Emerson	6	1961, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967
Roger Federer	6	2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2017, 2018
Andre Agassi	4	1995, 2000, 2001, 2003
Jack Crawford	4	1931, 1932, 1933, 1935
Ken Rosewall	4	1953, 1955, 1971, 1972
James Anderson	3	1922, 1924, 1925
Rod Laver	3	1960, 1962, 1969
Adrian Quist	3	1936, 1940, 1948
Mats Wilander	3	1983, 1984, 1988

SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN OPEN

PICTURE THIS

HARRY TRUMP/GETTY IMAGES

Boon or Bane?

Real Madrid's Lucas Vazquez, Dani Carvajal and Nacho Fernandez train in masks and backpacks at the club's Valdebebas facility.

The masks — fans have compared them to the one worn by Bane in the Batman flick, The Dark Knight Rises — are reportedly used to simulate the effects of altitude training. They do this by restricting the flow of air to the wearer.

An idea of Los Blancos' fitness coach Antonio Pintus, the masks help diagnose a player's physical state. The results can then be used to tailor a bespoke training plan.

"It's a test designed to find out the players' aerobic and anaerobic thresholds and their current power," Pintus told the club's official website.

"The mask works to analyse oxygen and carbohydrates. We need to know the percentage of one and the other in order to determine the player's condition. The result helps to personalise or at least give some direction to the work the team is doing."

The advantage such masks confer may be marginal, but big clubs, driven to succeed, explore a range of innovative methods to obtain every little edge they can.

Monitor purchase of home-based self-test kits and results, recommends TAC

The use of rapid self-test kits saw a massive jump since the Omicron surge began last year. This was mainly because the waiting time for RT-PCR test results was high with an increase in sample load. R.V. MOORTHY

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

To avoid the possibility of many COVID cases going unrecorded as home rapid testing kits for SARS-CoV-2 are easily available in pharmacies, the State's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has recommended that the purchase of such kits should be monitored by the local health authorities at the point of sale.

TAC members, who deliberated on this issue at the 192nd meeting held on Wednesday said it is important that the neighborhood pharmacies (including online) should collect the name, address and mobile number of the buyer.

The buyer should be contacted by the local health authorities for the result of the test, the TAC has advised. The State Health Department is likely to issue an advisory on this shortly.

"Besides, the buyers/users should be counselled through media about the importance of entering the test result on the ICMR portal," TAC sources said, adding that not doing so will result in under reporting of cases.

K.V. Trilok Chandra, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health) said that with the infection not as severe as in the previous waves, people are using these kits without bothering to alert the health authorities if they test positive. "We have asked the Drugs Controller to instruct the chemists to collect contact details of the buyers and pass it on to us. This will help us in tracking those who test positive," he said.

The use of rapid self-test kits saw a massive jump since the Omicron surge began last year. This was mainly because the waiting time for RT-PCR test results was high with an increase in sample load. A similar recommendation was made back then and a circular was also issued in January, 2022 asking the State Drugs Controller to ensure monitoring at the point of sale. But, it is hardly being followed now.

Karnataka State Drugs Controller B.T. Khanapure said as of now there is no system in place to monitor the sale and use of self-test kits. "We will issue an advisory to chemists If there is a fresh direction from Karnataka government," he said.

Demand picking up

Several chemists that *The Hindu* spoke to said the self-test kits are mainly being purchased by those working in the IT companies. "Sales that were high during the Omicron wave came down drastically after June when the wave subsided. Now, the demand is gradually picking up but it is not even half of what we used to sell last year," said Abhijit Gundu Rao of Deshpande Drugs in Chamarajpet.

C.N. Manjunath, member of the State's Clinical Experts Committee, said despite the drawback that people do not alert the health authorities about the test result, one advantage is that people isolate themselves.

"This will at least curb the spread of the infection," he said.

Defence Exhibition Organisation reviews HAL's upcoming facility in Tumakuru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ministry of Defence said that in the run-up to the Aero India 2023, Director of Defence Exhibition Organisation reviewed the upcoming Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) helicopter facility in Tumakuru.

"The MP from Tumakuru, G.S. Basavaraj, also made it convenient to oversee the facility, which is on a 615 acre campus. The facility's foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister in 2016 in line with his vision for Aatmanirbharta in Aerospace and Defence," the Ministry said.

The HAL facility at Biderehalla Kaval, Gubbi taluk, Tumakuru, will have production, testing facilities, and manufacturing capabilities of a wide-range of helicopters of 3 ton to 12 ton class. The 615 acre green field campus will have state-of-the-art manufacturing, structural assembly, final assembly-line facilities, helirunway, aerodrome, residential township for the staff, recreational facilities, a well-equipped training and development centre, etc. The facility will initially produce HAL's Light Utility Helicopter and also futuristic helicopters of new generation in the years to come.

The Ministry also said ambassadors of friendly foreign countries are also expected to be briefed on the upcoming Aero India on January 9 at New Delhi during the meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The Ministry added that the 14th edition of Aero India 2023 has energised the Indian Aerospace sector.

"Presently, more than 550 companies have registered through the official website and the numbers are expected to go up. The show has received tremendous response due to the initiatives of the Ministry of Defence in recent years," it said.

Four cases of chain snatching reported

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four cases of chain snatching were reported in the early morning on Friday in the North division of Bengaluru.

Chain snatching took place in Bagalagunte, Yeshwanthpur and Peenya.

According to police, two cases of chain snatching were reported in MEI layout and Ramaiah layout in Bagalagunte police station limits, while one case reported from JP Park in Yeshwanthpur and one case in Peenya all between morning 5.30 a.m. to 8 a.m.

In all cases, two men riding on a motorcycle stopped near the women victim who were on their walk and snatched their gold chain.

Soon after the incident, the city police control room sounded an alert and increased patrolling.

Police officials said that they have taken up a case and started an investigation immediately, however, no one has been arrested so far.

AURANGABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
AURANGABAD
Executive Engineer (Electrical) Section

Office Address : Aurangabad Municipal Corporation, Executive Engineer (Electrical) Section
Town Hall, Aurangabad 431001 Contact No. 0240- 2333536-40
E-mail : contact@aurangabadmahapalika.org

	Name of Work	Bid Submission End Date
1	Supplying and Erecting pole and fitting at various roads and between dividers (Phase -2) Estimate Amount 19967330/- - Harsool to Pisadevi - Baba flyover bridge to Rangada Road (Panchvati to Railway bridge) - Ahilyabai Holakar chowk to Railway line N-3 - MGM to Kailash Nagar Smashan Bhumi - Aurangpura, Roplekar chowk, Little flower, Barapula Gate to Laxmi colony - Nakshtrawadi Paithan Road to Octozone - Kranti chowk, Seven hill, Mondha Naka bridge, CIDCO Bridge (slip- Road) - Major store to Naregaon - Mukundwadi Chowk - University to Makai Gate	9th January 2023

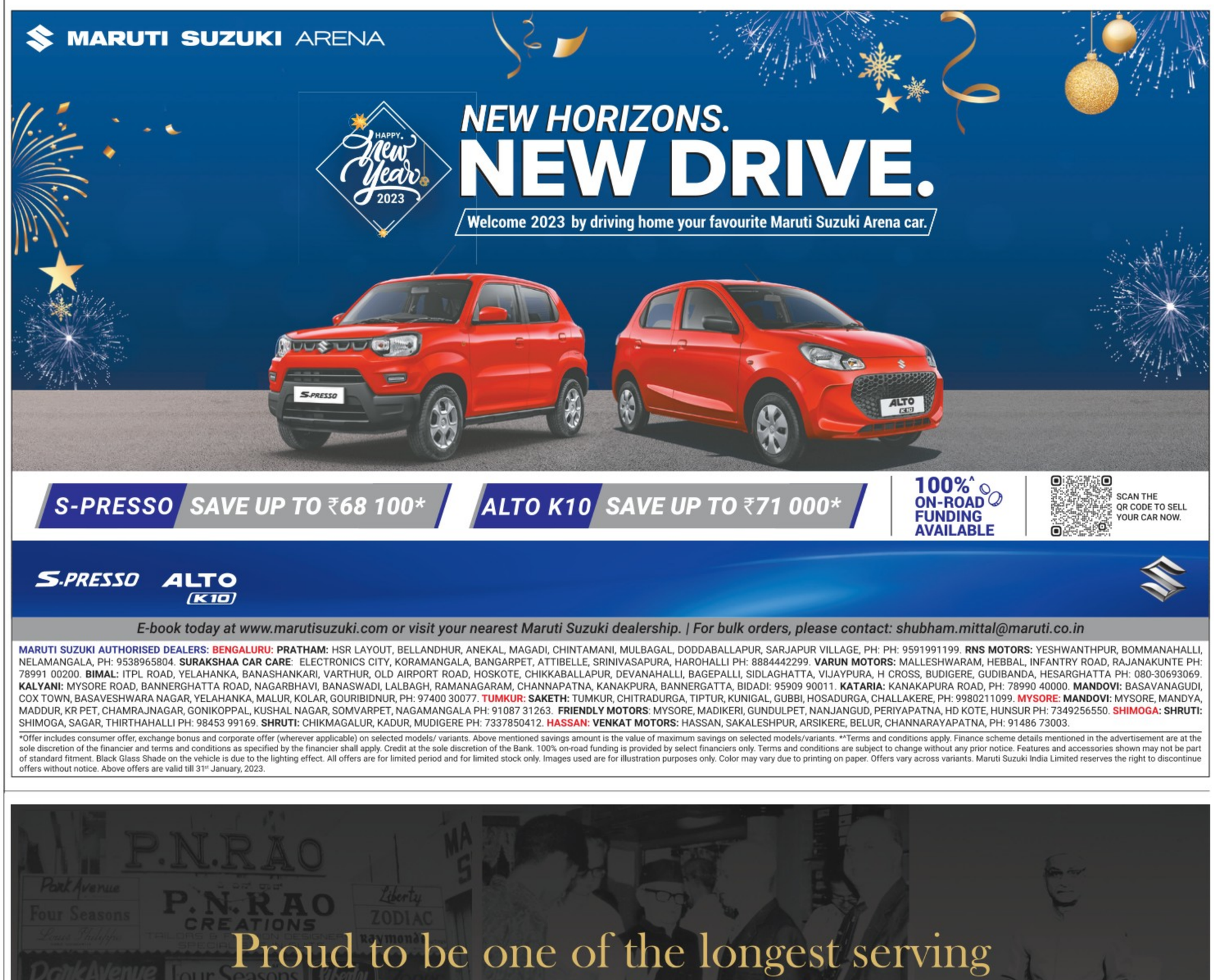
Detailed information is available on website https://www.mahatenders.gov.in of the Municipal Corporation.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
Aurangabad Municipal Corporation

RO No: जा.क्र/मनपा/विद्युत/१४/२०२३

FOR SALE

186 Cents – (93 cents plain land ready for building construction with valley view and 93 cent agricultural land with tea cultivation) for sale in Kotagiri, [near Travancore Palace] Nilgiri district Tamil Nadu.
For details contact : 8754458313



MARUTI SUZUKI AUTHORISED DEALERS: BENGALURU: **PRATHAM:** HSR LAYOUT, BELLANDHUR, ANEKAL, MAGADI, CHINTAMANI, MULBAGAL, DODDABALLAPUR, SARJAPUR VILLAGE, PH: PH: 9591991199. **RNS MOTORS:** YESHWANTHPUR, BOMMANAHALLI, NELAMANGALA, PH: 9538965804. **SURAKSHAA CAR CARE**: ELECTRONICS CITY, KORAMANGALA, BANGARPET, ATTIBELLE, SRINIVASAPURA, HAROHALLI PH: 8884442299. **VARUN MOTORS:** MALLESHWARAM, HEBBAL, INFANTRY ROAD, RAJANAKUNTE PH: 78991 00200. **BIMAL:** ITPL ROAD, YELAHANKA, BANASHANKARI, VARTHUR, OLD AIRPORT ROAD, HOSKOTE, CHIKKABALLAPUR, DEVANAHALLI, BAGEPALLI, SIDLAGHATTA, VIJAYPURA, H CROSS, BUDIGERE, GUDIBANDA, HESARGHATTA PH: 080-30693069. **KALYANI:** MYSORE ROAD, BANNERGHATTA ROAD, NAGARBHAVI, BANASWADI, LALBAGH, RAMANAGARAM, CHANNAPATNA, KANAKPURA, BANNERGATTA, BIDADI: 95909 90011. **KATARIA:** KANAKAPURA ROAD, PH: 78990 40000. **MANDOVI:** BASAVANAGUDI, COX TOWN, BASAVESHWARA NAGAR, YELAHANKA, MALUR, KOLAR, GOURIBIDNUR, PH: 97400 30077. **TUMKUR: SAKETH:** TUMKUR, CHITRADURGA, TIPTUR, KUNIGAL, GUBBI, HOSADURGA, CHALLAKERE, PH: 9980211099. **MYSORE: MANDOVI:** MYSORE, MANDYA, MADDUR, KR PET, CHAMRAJNAGAR, GONIKOPPAL, KUSHAL NAGAR, SOMVARPET, NAGAMANGALA PH: 91087 31263. **FRIENDLY MOTORS**: MYSORE, MADIKERI, GUNDULPET, NANJANGUD, PERIYAPATNA, HD KOTE, HUNSUR PH: 7349256550. **SHIMOGA: SHRUTI:** SHIMOGA, SAGAR, THIRTHAHALLI PH: 98453 99169. **SHRUTI:** CHIKMAGALUR, KADUR, MUDIGERE PH: 7337850412. **HASSAN: VENKAT MOTORS:** HASSAN, SAKALESHPUR, ARSIKERE, BELUR, CHANNARAYAPATNA, PH: 91486 73003.

*Offer includes consumer offer, exchange bonus and corporate offer (wherever applicable) on selected models/ variants. Above mentioned savings amount is the value of maximum savings on selected models/variants. **Terms and conditions apply. Finance scheme details mentioned in the advertisement are at the sole discretion of the financier and terms and conditions as specified by the financier shall apply. Credit at the sole discretion of the Bank. 100% on-road funding is provided by select financiers only. Terms and conditions are subject to change without any prior notice. Features and accessories shown may not be part of standard fitment. Black Glass Shade on the vehicle is due to the lighting effect. All offers are for limited period and for limited stock only. Images used are for illustration purposes only. Color may vary due to printing on paper. Offers vary across variants. Maruti Suzuki India Limited reserves the right to discontinue offers without notice. Above offers are valid till 31st January, 2023.

School receives hoax bomb threat in e-mail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Panic gripped the management of a private school in Rajajinagar for some time when the staff checked an email which stated that a bomb has been planted on the school premises, around 11.30 a.m. on Friday.

The police, along with the anti-sabotage check team and bomb disposal squad, rushed to the school and vacated the premises by shifting around 950 children from nursery to 12th class before initiating the search operation. After thorough combing operations, playground and parking lot, and various parts of the school campus it was concluded that the email was a hoax.

Lakshman B. Nimbaragi, DCP, West division said, "After investigation and thorough combing operations, it has been declared the school premises is safe and it is a hoax mail. We have registered a case and are trying to track down the source of the threat mail."

Man arrested over hoax bomb call

The Vidhana Soudha police arrested a person identified as Sunil from Kadugodi for making a hoax bomb threat call to the police control room saying that he had allegedly kept a bomb in the city civil court on January 3.

Even though the police suspected it to be a hoax call, they carried out combing operations in and around the court premises to ensure safety.

Based on the phone number, police tracked down the accused and arrested.

According to police, a probe revealed that Sunil is an accused in various other cases and was frustrated going to courts regularly and decided to make a hoax call. Police are investigating the case further.

PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS
thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

A farmhouse that rocks

An award-winning project shows how to use natural resources and diminish the impact of the built space on the site while keeping the construction time and cost minimal. The structure can be dismantled too. By **Nandhini Sundar**

The structure. in lush green surroundings, displaying the roofing sheets, outer wall panels and steel tubular sections used for the windows. SIJO

The entrance foyer of the farmhouse, with the structure fused deftly into the landscape. SIJO

View of the cot in the bedroom made with wood sourced from the site, and the inner lay of the roof SIJO

DESIGN

When Architect James Joseph of Indesign stumbled upon a rocky site amidst thick vegetation, marked by huge rocks and boulders, making the terrain unfit for cultivation, he realised he had the perfect site to build his farmhouse, merging the structure totally into its surroundings. Thus emerged his award winning project Elakadu Vasathi in Kottayam, Kerala, the residence serving as a classic example of how to minimise the use of natural resources, diminish the impact of the built space on the site and its surroundings while also keeping the construction time and cost minimal.

Given the uneven topography of the site, Joseph decided to come up with a design that would use the rocky terrain as the foundation with the steel plates used in the structure directly bolted into the rocks. The structure, built using square tubular sections, permits dismantling when required and also the flexibility to alter without wastage, keeping with the philosophy of minimal intrusion, minimal wastage and minimal impact on nature. In fact, the construction was done without a single truck load of soil taken out or brought in.

Reducing cost and wastage

Besides being locational sensitive, the individual elements in the structure reveal minimal cost and material use. The ground-plus-one structure has the staircase steps carved out of the existing rock formation, minimising the cost of construction while lending a rustic flavour. The windows and doors too are made using steel tubular sections which require only welding as against the conventional carpentry work. "This once again reduces cost and labour as well as time besides permitting easy dismantling when required", points out Joseph.

The expansive glass walls, enclosing the large free flowing living area to merge seamlessly with the lush green landscape, come with similar intent of minimising wastage. "Glass panels normally come in the size of 8x4 feet and when used for the walls, it can result in sizeable wastage. To avoid this, the size of each panel segment was altered to 6x2 feet", explains Joseph. "The changes may be small but wastage was minimised by merely paying attention to such details."

Cutting heat ingress

Even when a site abounds in greens and the emerging structure is ensconced in it, heat ingress can still occur depending on the specific orientation as well as seasons. Recognising this, Joseph came up with the solution of using the green-rated Everest Hi-Tech roofing sheet, teaming it with a layer of jute in the under-sections, thereby ensuring the interiors remain naturally cool. "These also aid in sound proofing as they are not metal sheets", he adds. Incidentally, the jute was purposefully sewed on to the under-sections of the roof to enable easy changing when need arose. While these prevent heat ingress from the roof, Joseph used the green-rated Everest Rapicon panels for the outer walls to prevent heat from penetrating through the walls.

Flexible interiors

The interior lay of the residence is equally flexible and green in its design, the free flowing living area blending seamlessly into the exterior greens, the demarcation between the interiors and exteriors effectively blurred. Further, the living area is multi-functional in use, where the dining seating also doubles up as a bench seat for the living area. The seating elements in the dining and living area are also flexible to be converted into an extra bed for guests. Likewise, the backrest of the television which covers the cables is also designed to convert into a bench when extra seating is solicited in the living room. "Besides the multi-functional spaces, the furniture is also custom designed to offer similar multiple use", states Joseph.

Structural members

This multi-functional feature does not stop with furniture and the lay of the spaces, but extends to encompass structural members too of the building. Thus, the square tubular sections used in the structure double up as door and window frames to take the load, removing the need to place separate frames for the shutters. In the same vein, the Everest HP high density cement boards used for flooring, serve as the platform for the walls while also doubling up as a cot for the bedroom on the upper level. No separate staircase exists for the twin bedrooms housed on the mezzanine, with merely a bridge passage connecting the bedrooms to the verandah at the lower level.

Wood sourced from site

Though the doors and windows were made using steel tubular sections, furniture in the residence comes in wood. "The entire furniture in the residence was made using the wood from the Manjiyam tree which incidentally is the only tree cut to clear the area for the structure", says Joseph. Even while using this timber from the site, Joseph was mindful of wastage. "Timber in its natural form has its own minor defects and many times these sections are wasted while making exotic furniture. We dispensed with such waste, using the timber as it is, making the furniture according to its natural profile", adds Joseph. Thus, timber identified with minor defects was converted into coffee tables while the solid wood dining table comes with a classy pattern that is tuned with the irregular shape of the timber. "The gap coming between the two logs of wood used was sealed with polycarbonate sheet with an LED light underneath, retaining in entirety the original profile of the timber", points Joseph.

Salvaging waste

For Joseph, the concept of green did not stop with merely minimising use of resources but extended to putting waste to constructive use. His structure displays this philosophy amply. Broken waste tiles were sourced and used in artistic patterns on walls and flooring while the kitchen counter too reveals similar use of these tiles, putting waste to good use. Paper tubes used for hoarding sheets are always discarded and even burnt. Joseph salvaged these and converted them into LED light fittings. The cut waste of the tubular sections was further designed as garden lighting. Given the core flexible intent of the design, the structure can be expanded easily or dismantled if required. "The panels on the outer walls are mounted on a track to enable easy expansion. The design and materials used permit easy dismantling and reuse, thus minimising the impact on nature", sums up Joseph. Elakadu Vasathi is the recipient of the prestigious IIA National Award (Residences) 2021.

> ***The staircase steps were carved out of the existing rock formation***

REAL ESTATE

BUYING

RESIDENTIAL LAND

WANTED 1/2, 1, 2 Ground @ Madipakkam, Velachery, Pallikaranai, Medavakkam No Broker CT:9841053951

SELLING

COMMERCIAL LAND

COMMERCIAL LAND FOR SALE
1.6 Acre @ Neelambur, Coimbatore 300M Off Avinashi Road, near L&T Junction.
Suitable for IT Park, Hotel, Marriage Hall, warehouse.
land.neelambur@gmail.com

RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

KODAIKANAL 40 Cent land with house 2Cr (Opposite to University in Main Road) Whatsapp : +6590759707

SELLING

FARMHOUSE / LAND /RESORTS

OOTY TAMILNADU Hill Station 7Acres Land for Building Guest Houses, Villas & Resorts for sale. 9500108888

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/110722/005059
ಡಿಎಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್

A HOME CLOSER TO EVERYTHING YOU WANTED
AND RETURNS CLOSER TO THE HEART WITH
2X APPRECIATION GUARANTEE IN 5 YEARS!

DR. K V SATISH, CHAIRMAN
DS MAX ISO 9001:2015 COMPANY

MALLS - 10 MINS.
ROYAL MEENAKSHI MALL
MARKET SQUARE MALL

HOSPITALS - 10 MINS.
ABIRAMM HOSPITAL
MATHRU HOSPITAL

METRO - 10 MINS.
PINK LINE
YELLOW LINE

SCHOOLS - 5 MINS.
WISDOM WOOD HIGH SCHOOL
BRIGHTWAY INTL. SCHOOL

8880 472 472

BEGUR

Rs. 31.96 - 52.64 Lacs*
Rs. 4,000 / Sq. Ft.

10 MINS. SILK BOARD

DS-MAX SENATE | BBMP APPROVED | 1, 2 & 3-BHK APARTMENTS

APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/201201/003733	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/211209/004576	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/210312/004002	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/180120/001878	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/280222/004739	
ELECTRONIC CITY	YELAHANKA	K R PURAM	SARJAPURA	THANISANDRA MAIN ROAD	CHANDAPURA	HENNUR ROAD
NEAR BOSCH HOSA ROAD JUNCTION	ISRO LAYOUT PHASE - II	NEAR GARDEN CITY UNIVERSITY	SARJAPURA - ATTIBELE ROAD	10 MINS. FROM MANYATA TECH PARK	10 MINS. NARAYANA HRUDAYALAYA	DODDAGUBBI NEAR DECATHLON
₹ 35.00 - 39.37 Lacs*	₹ 37.46 - 64.68 Lacs*	₹ 39.36 - 65.13 Lacs*	₹ 29.04 - 37.35 Lacs*	₹ 1.20 - 1.49 Crores*	₹ 27.45 - 37.20 Lacs*	₹ 31.36 - 79.60 Lacs*
2-BHK	2 & 3-BHK	2 & 3-BHK	2 & 3-BHK	3-BHK	2 & 3-BHK	1, 2 & 3-BHK
₹ 3,500 / Sq. Ft.	₹ 4,200 / Sq. Ft.	₹ 3,800 / Sq. Ft.	₹ 3,000 / Sq. Ft.	READY TO OCCUPY	₹ 3,000 / Sq. Ft.	READY TO OCCUPY
9164 045 000	8880 758 758	8880 438 000	9164 122 000	8088 779 779	8880 013 310	8880 465 465

*T & C Apply

Contents of this advertisement are only for information; This is not an offer for agreement, and interpretation is not allowed. Returns mentioned in the artwork are based on the price trends from various property portals over a period of time, buyers are requested to do their own research before deciding on the property. Reach our sales team for precise communication. And we value your independent inquiries before any definite conclusion. The apartment elevation, colour, landscaping or any features shown are indicative and for representation purposes only. All investment schemes, offers and discounts are subject to the management's discretion and subject to availability. All directions, locations, landmarks and travel times are from various sources and may not be of geographical accuracy, and the use of reliable resources is at your discretion, visit: www.rera.karnataka.gov.in

www.dsmaxproperties.com

BG-BGE

Youth assaulted for speaking to minor girl

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

In an incident of 'moral policing' in Dakshina Kannada, a 12-member group allegedly abducted and assaulted a 20-year-old man after he was found talking to a 17-year-old girl at the KSRTC bus stand at Kukke Subrahmanya on Thursday evening.

In the complaint, victim Hafeedsaid he knew the girl, who belonged to another faith.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JAN. 07		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:08
RISE	18:31	SET 06:59
SUNDAY, JAN. 08		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:08
RISE	19:23	SET 07:47
MONDAY, JAN. 09		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:09
RISE	20:13	SET 08:31

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	29	15
Bengaluru	26	16

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable and humid. Night will be cool with haze.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

BMTC drops plan to run city buses to Chickballapur, Ramanagaram, Kolar after resistance from KSRTC

BMTC vice-chairman mooted the idea of extending services beyond its jurisdiction as the city has grown in every direction and people commute from neighbouring districts for work

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BMTC has a fleet size of 6,700 buses and runs 5,700 schedules daily. K. MURALI KUMAR

An "ambitious plan" of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) to operate city buses to Chickballapur, Kolar, Ramanagaram and other destinations close to the capital city has made officials of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) see red.

They say BMTC was carved out of KSRTC in 1997 with the sole purpose of providing service for Bengaluru, and the corporation's plan to expand the jurisdiction is totally unwarranted. The vice-chairman, a political appointee in the BMTC, mooted the idea of the corporation extending its services beyond its jurisdiction as the city has grown in every direction and people commute from neighbouring districts for work.

BMTC's mandate

The BMTC has a mandate to run buses in the city limits as well as within 25 km from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits. Chairman of the BMTC N.S. Nandiesha Reddy told *The Hindu* that the idea of running city buses to Chickballapur has been dropped in the interest of the both organisations.

A senior official of the KSRTC said, "We have received a letter from the BMTC seeking our response on running city buses beyond its existing jurisdiction. We have strong reservations about this plan as it enters the operational jurisdiction of the KSRTC which has been providing bus services for decades to various destinations from Bengaluru. There is enough scope for the corporation to run buses in its existing limits and make optimal utilisation of its resources instead of entering sister organisation's jurisdiction."

The official said no formal reply has been given to the BMTC, but at the higher level, officials have discussed the ill-effects of the such move.

The BMTC has a fleet size of 6,700 buses and runs 5,700 schedules daily. Due to shortage of drivers, it is not in a position to increase its fleet size. On an average, 27 lakh people rely on city buses.

Competition with KSRTC

Chairman of the BMTC N.S. Nandiesha Reddy said, "Our vice-chairman and other people had requested for running buses to Chickballapur and other areas. This leads to competition with the KSRTC, and in the interest of the organisations, we have dropped the plan of running buses beyond the limits assigned to the BMTC."

However, an official of the BMTC said the formal reply is yet to come from the KSRTC.

"Due to rapid urbanisations beyond Bengaluru, the number of daily commuters from neighbouring districts and beyond has increased. We had requested the KSRTC to either allow us to extend our services or they themselves run more buses with good frequency. We are yet to receive a formal reply."

PM to inaugurate IIT-Dhawad soon

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi on Friday said that Prime Minister Modi would inaugurate new campus Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Dharwad, in the last week of February or in March.

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH

Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/46/2022-23 Dated: 30-12-2022

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For Viveka Yojane Grants Works. The work details can be obtained from the e-Procurement Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted **on or before 16-01-2023 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3929/ Adverto/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-79-packages/22-23/10306-09 Date: 05.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against bid enquiry no: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/Shift/EPR-03,11,12&13/CALL-2 dated 13.05.2022** for providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at 220kV/66/11kV and 66/11kV stations **(Package-2, 5, 6 & 7)**, in the jurisdictions of BMAZ North Circle.

The bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink 'e procurement –KPTCL' or to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after **09.01.2023**. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Tr (M), BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-9. Phone: 22386686-85

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur Hassan District.

Short Term Tender Notification No:24/2022-23 Date:04.01.2023

The Executive Engineer, CNNL.,Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur-573120 Hassan Taluk, Hassan Dist., As Per KW-4, invited Item rate Short term tender (Two cover) through e- procurement only vide No.24/2022-23, Date: 04.01.2023 on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from the eligible contractors of PWD Class-III and above of any State /Central Government /Public Sector organization. Details:-1 work, approximate amount Rs.167.21 Lakhs, EMD as Prescribed in e-portal, The contractor can have access e-tender documents from 09.01.2023 to 17.01.2023 through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on payment (Non Refundable) of transaction fees as fixed by E – portal (2)Opening of Technical bid 18.01.2023 at 5.00 PM onwards. (if possible) For further information etc.,contact in the undersigned office during working hours or through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in(Department).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಹೆಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/934/2022–23

Karnataka State Co-Operative Federation Limited

No.32, 3rd Floor, D. Devraj Urs Road (Race Course Road), Bangalore-560 001, Telephone No:080 - 22268018/19. E-mail-kscfltd@gmail.com

No. AE/03/2022-23 Date:05.01.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Karnataka State Co-operative Federation Limited invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the works detailed below.

Sl. No	Name of work	Value put to tender(Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Completion time in months
1	Repairs and Renovation of Training Institute and Hostel Building of KICM Madikeri.	1,54,19,951/- + Applicable GST	2,31,300/-	12 Months (Including Monsoon)

1. Last date for receipt of Technical and Financial bid is:**19.01.2023**
2. Technical Bid Opening **Date:20.01.2023**
3. Financial Bid Opening **Date:21.01.2023**
4. For more information contact above office

Sd/- Managing Director.

DIPR/CP/JA/3931/2022-23

DIRECTORATE OF ESIS MEDICAL SERVICES

S. Nijalingappa Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru - 560010

No.: ESIS/ECS/28/22-23 Date: 05.01.2023

Tenders for Supply of various super speciality Drugs on Rate Contract Basis from the Manufacturers / Authorised Dealers

Details regarding tender visit	**https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and Department website https://esisms.karnataka.gov.in**
Last date of receipt of tender through e-procurement portal system	**20-01-2023 5-00 PM**
Tender received through e-procurement portal system technical bid opening date and time	**23-01-2023 3-00 PM**

Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Phone: 080-23324216 / 9343999903
Email: dir-esi@karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-, Director (I/C) ESIS Medical Services

DIPR/CP/LC/3920/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office Of The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Chitradurga

No.EE:PWD:CTA:JE-3:Tender-90:2022-23: Dated:- 04.01.2023

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through e-Procurement Portal as per standard tender documents rules. **Name of work:-Two cover System:- Head of Account 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements:-** (1) Improvements to road from Maradihalli to State border road KM 26.60 to30.00 KM (Gulya cross to Hosahalli 3.40 KM) in Hiriyur Taluk (W.I. 162364) **Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs 150.00** (2) Improvements to Road from Hosahalli to Byarage (Total 0.60Km) in Hiriyur Taluk (W.I. 162201) **Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs 75.50** (3) A) Improvement to road Gulya to Hariyabbe in Hiriyur taluk (Total 4.60 KM) B) Improvements to road Hariyabbe to suguru road via Mungasavalli, KM 0.00 to 0.50 KM (Hariyabbe to SH-24 KM 0.50) (W.I. 162949) **Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs 79.50 Tender dates are as mentioned below:** (1) Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 11-01-2023 Time: 17.30 (2) Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 12-01-2023 Time: 16.00 (3) Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 13-01-2023 Time: 16.15 (4) Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 16-01-2023 Time: 11.00 Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/844/2022-23 Sd/- Executive Engineer

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department

Office of the Chief Engineer, RWS&SD, First Floor, "E" Block, KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009, Ph: 080-22533700, e-mail: cerws14@gmail.com

No:RDW&SD/CE/ADMIN/C-3/28/2022-23 Date: 03-01-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER INVITATION - 2nd Call

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Govt. of Karnataka invites tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible bidders in two cover system (Technical and Financial bid) for **Hiring of an agency for providing Cab Services** to Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department. The last date for submission of bids through e-portal is **19-01-2023 before 4.00 PM.** EMD Amount is **Rs. 50,000/-.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer RDW&SD, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/BCPL/3936/2022-23

ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ದೂ. 08232–225046, email: vcdnmndya@gmail.com

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 11/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 31–12–2022
ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ

ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ **ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01ರ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು, ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 02 ರ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ 1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು, ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 03 ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 04 ರವರೆಗೆ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು,** ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ 4701 ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತವು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸುವ ಮೊತ್ತವೇ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 04 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ 24.50 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ 300.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಹಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೇಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡುವುದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫ್ಹಾರೀಸ್/ಕ್ವಾರಿಫಿಕೇಷನ್‌ಗಾಗಿ **as per e-portal** ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ **as per e-portal** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ **as per e-portal** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08232–225046 ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ (ನಿ.), ವಿ.ಸಿ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Deputy Commissioner Gadag District, Gadag Phone & Fax : 08372- 231877, Email : dudc_gdg@yahoo.co.in

No: DUDC/DVP/Amuruth Nagarothana Municipality/PH-4/CR-25/2021-22 Dated : 05-01-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell Gadag District, Gadag invites tenders in two cover system using KW-3 document from related Class Contractors for Gadag District Amuruth Nagarothana Municipality Phase-4 Project works as detailed below. (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No	Description of work	Amount Put to Tender	EMD
1	Construction of road from Shigli naka Maruti Temple to chainage 0.00 to 300.00 meters at Bazar Main Road in Lakshmeshwar Municipality under ambruth Nagarothana municipality Phase -4 (package-2) Project. **E-Proc Indent No. DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT144714**	**71.92**	**1.44**

Contractors can download and submit the tenders through e-Procurement portal at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows: (1) Last Date for uploading of completed tender documents : **16-01-2023** upto 17.30 hrs. (2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) **18-01-2023** at 11.00 hrs.

Postponement of calendar of events and corrigendum / addendum (if any) is only published through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer District Urban Development Cell, Gadag District, Gadag

DIPR/GADAG/MCA/560/2022-23

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
WRIT APPEAL NO.951/2007 (L-TER)
(SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION, VIDE COURT ORDER DATED 08.12.2022 TO THE RESPONDENT NOS.1 TO 33)

Appellants: 1. Vijayanagar Institute Of Medical Sciences Represented By Its Director Cantonment, Bellari-583104 And Anothers.
(By Sri. J.M. Anil Kumar & Others Advocates For appellants (VK filed) Sri K.P. N. Raju, Advocate for Appellants v/s

Respondents: 1. Sri. Tayappa C/o Prasanna Kuar R. R/o No,58 Kudrepalappa Beedi, Ballari. And others.

(VCO dated 10.08.2022, GA is directed to take notice for R34)

To.,

Respondent Nos.1 To 33

1.Sri Tayappa 2. Smt Govindamma 3 Sri Ram Bahaddur Since Dead By LR, 3 (a) Smt. Tulasi D.o Rambahaddur Resident At Donimali Near KMDC Community Hall Sandur Taluk, Ballari District 4. Smt. Nagamma, 5 Smt. Nallamma, 6. Sri. Govinda, 7. K. Muniswamy, 8. Sri. H. Lingappa, 9.Sri. K. Devanna, 10. Sri. Sunkanna, 11. Smt. Laxmi Devi, 12. Sri Laxamana, 13. Smt. Marisiddamma, 14. Sri. Timmappa, 15. Smt. Padmalaxmi, 16. Sri. Ramanjeneya, 17. Sri. Paul Prabhakar, 18. Sri. Venkatesh, 19. Sri. B.A. Sriramalu, 20. Sri. Chandrashekhar, 21. Sri. Mallesh, 22. Sri. M. venkatesh, 23. Sri. R.M. Habibaksh 24. Smt. Jayasheela, 25. Sri M. Jayaram, 26. Sri. Shiva 27. Sri. Anand, 28. Nagartna, 29. G. Shakuntala, 30. Kavitha, 31. Rangamma, 32. Sri Ashok, 33 Sri. Premakumar.

The Respondent Nos. 1 To 33 Are C/o Prasanna Kumar R. R/o No.58, Kudrepalappa Beedi Ballari.

Whereas a writ Appealfiled by the above named Appellant under section 4 of Karnataka High Court Act 1961, Praying to set aside the order dated 11.09.2006 passed in W.P. No. 3005/2002 and copy annexed hereunto, has been registered by this court.

Notice is hereby given to you appear in this court in person or through an advocate or through someone duly authorized by law to act for you in this case on **01.02.2023 at 10.30 A**.M. to show cause why the appeal should not be admitted. If you fail so to appear, on the said date or any subsequent date to which the natter may be osted as directed by court without any further Notice, The Appeal will be dealt with heard abd decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand the seal of this court on Thursday the 08th day of December 2022

By Order Of The Court Assistant Registrar

DIPR/Ballari/784/MCA/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client proposes to purchase the Schedule Properties from its respective Owners mentioned in the Schedule below. The Owners represent that they are the absolute owners of their respective properties each having marketable, right, title and interest therein and that apart from them there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Properties. The Owners further represent that they have not mortgaged, created any lien or encumbered the Schedule Properties or part thereof in any manner and that the Owners have not entered into any other agreement of sale/development agreement/memorandum of understanding/arrangement etc., with any person/s with regard to the Schedule Properties. Any person/s having objection/s or claims shall with documentary evidence lodge their objections/claims **within seven (7) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, our client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE

Description of the Schedule Property

All that piece and parcel of the following agricultural lands situated at **Kempathimmanahalli village, Kasaba hobli, Devanahalli taluk, Bengaluru Rural District:**

Sl. No.	SY No.	Extent A - G	Owner(s)	BOUNDARIES			
				East By	West by	North by	South by
01	61/1	1-33	Mr Nemichand Jain, son of late Megraj Jain	Private property bearing survey No. 61/2.	Private properties bearing survey Nos. 64/1 and 64/2.	Property bearing survey No. 59	Private properties bearing survey No. 62/1 and 62/2.
02	61/2 (part)	1-00 (out of 2-01)	Mr B Gopal Gowda, son of late Bayanna	Property bearing survey No. 62.	Property bearing survey No. 61/1.	Remaining portion of the property bearing survey No. 61/2.	Property bearing survey No. 62.

Ms. Savitha K.G., Partner
Poovayya & Co., Advocates and Solicitors
The Estate, Level Four, 121 Dickenson Road, Bengaluru - 560 042
Place: Bengaluru Date: 06.01.2023

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWDept.Shimoga Division, Shimoga

No.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-2/IFT-42/M-1/22-23 Dtd:02-01-2023
Ref:1)EE/PWD/Smg/AE-2/IFT-42/2022-23 Dtd:16-12-2022

With above ref Tender invited through E-Procurement to be read as CC Pavement M40 Grade Instead CC Pavement (http://eproc. karnataka.gov.in) the dates for downloading & submission

SL.No. 1. Tender Documents Dowloading Date : 02-01-2023 To 07-01-2023 **Last Date of Receipt:** 07-01-2023

Further no any other changes. For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 & Helpdesk No 080- 3010900/23010901

Sd/- Exe.Engr., PWD, Shimoga Division, Shimoga

DIPR/smg/no.44-01/22-23/1612

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2022-23/10576 Date: 05.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bids against Enquiry No.KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/11kV UG Cable/Call-2/2022-23/348 Dated: 03.01.2023 **for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 11KV UG Cables of the sizes 1CX1000 Sq.mm 3Cx240Sq.mm & 3Cx95Sq.mm required for various sub-stations coming under Transmission Zone Mysuru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading".** The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. on or after 07.01.2023.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Elecl., Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007 Phone: 0821-2455770/2457275

Government of Karnataka
Rural Development & Panchayat Department
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chitradurga

Phone No.: 08194-234488 e-mail: eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com

No.: R.W.S.&S./D/C/EE/B4/Tender/2022-23/1876Date: 03.01.2023

Tender Notice (1, 2, & 3rd Call)

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka, Tender is invited in single cover system through e-procurement portal, subject to Standard Tender Documents KW – 2 & 3 Rules from eligible class contractors registered with Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Circle, Davanagere/ Chief Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, Bengaluru, for 59 works of Rs. 2903.15 lakhs in the limits of Chitradurga Taluk, for 35 works of Rs. 949.93 lakhs in the limits of Hiriyuru Taluk, for 19 works of Rs. 576.84 lakhs in the limits of Holalkere Taluk and for 24 works of Rs. 605.57 lakhs in the limits of Hosadurga Taluk under J.J.M. Scheme for the year 2022-23. Last date for submission of Tender: 18.01.2023 up to 4.00 PM. Date of opening Technical Bid: 19.01.2023 at 4.30 PM and date of opening Financial Bid: 21.01.2023 at 11.00 AM. Details of the works are published in website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and for further information contact Executive Engineer, R.W.S. & S. Division, Chitradurga during office hours.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/ 840/2022-23 Executive Engineer, R.D.W.S. & S. Division, Chitradurga

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN - U04010KA2002SGC030438

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through e-procurement portal)

No. CE(E)/CZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/8745-46 Date: 05-01-2023

BESCOM re-invites Tenders for **Providing electrical infrastructure to regularized Un-authorized IP sets by extending 11 KV lines, erection of 25 KVA 4 star rated Distribution Transformers and extension of LT line 3 phase 4 wire on Total Turnkey basis on PERCENTAGE QUOTING BASIS – Re-inviting of tender.**

Enquiry No : CE(E)/CZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/TTK-005/ Call-3. Name of the Sub Division : Yediyur

Availability of Bid documents : 07.01.2023 at 12:00 Hrs onwards. **Last date for bid submission :** 21.01.2023 at 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bids :** 23.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting :** 12.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs. **Last date for submission of Queries :** 16.01.2023 before 17:00 Hrs. **Pre bid meeting Venue :** Office of Chief Engineer, BESCOM, Opp. RTO Office, Turuvanur Road, Chitradurga-577501.

The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the e-procurement portal from the website **http://www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in E-procurement Help Desk: Phone No: +91-8046010000, +91-8022631200 E-mail: support@ihelpdsk.com** Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on e-procurement portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the e-procurement during working hours.

For electricity related complaints call : 1912 Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele.), O & M Zone, Chitradurga

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕನೀನಿ ಘಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ೩ ಬೀಳಗಿ
Office :Executive Engineer, KNNL GLBC Dn No.3Bilagi
Phone & Fax No:08425-275228 e-mail:eeknnlglbcdn.3bilagi@gmail.com

ಸಂ:ಕನೀನಿನಿ:ಘಎದಂಕಾ:ವಿ೩:ಡಿಬಿ:2022–23/2123 ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.01.2023

::ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ::(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮೆ:ಮ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್–ಪೋರ್ಟಾಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) 4701 SCP ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಸಿ.ಸಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಿವರ :

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KNNL/2022-23/RD/WORK _INDENT35080, ಅಂದಾಜು ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಇಡಲಾದ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 129.95 lakhs ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. Rs 1,95,000.00 ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಘಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ–03 ಬೀಳಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ 07–01–2022 at 11.00 hrs. ಟೆಂಡರ ಕುರಿತ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ / ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ 10–01–2022, Up to 17.00 hrs. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ 12–01–2022 at 17.00 hrs.ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 16–01–2022 at 11.00 hrs. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗೆ ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದ ನಂತರ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ನಿಯಮ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ http://www. eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು ಕನೀನಿನಿ ಘಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ೩ ಬೀಳಗಿ

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-749/MCA/2022-23

Kerala State Film Development Corporation Ltd.

Chalachitra Kalabhavan, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram -14
Ph: 0471 2325325, Email: ksfdcltd@gmail.com, Website: www.ksfdc.in

E-TENDER NOTICE 06.01.2023

No: 8194/T2/22/KSFDC : E-Tenders are invited for Upgradation with Modern Digital Technologies' of Kairali/Sree Theatre Thrissur.

No:5247/T2/22/KSFDC : E-Tenders are invited for Civil work for the Conversion of Food Court into Public Auditorium and Conference Hall at Kairali/Sree Theatre Complex Kozhikode.

Tender ID 2023 _KSFDC_546968_1 : For more details visit website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in. Last date for bid submission of e-tender will be at 3.00 p.m. on 19.01.2023

Sd/- Managing Director

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ–43/ಎಇ–2/2022–23/2945 ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 05.01.2023

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಅ/ದಾವಿದಾ/ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ–43/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.01.2023

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ– 3 & 4 ರಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಜಗಳೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಬಿದರಕೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (163074) ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು (ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 21.01.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) 2) ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಅತ್ತಿಗೆರೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾಯಕೊಂಡ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಕೊಡಗನೂರು–ಬೊಮ್ಮೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ–ಪರಶುರಾಂಪುರ–ಭಾವಿಹಾಳ್ ಕಿ.ಮೀ. 2.40 ರಿಂದ 11.10ರವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಡಾಂಬರೀಕರಣ. (163078). ರೂ. 200.00 ಲಕ್ಷ 3) ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಾರಿಗನೂರು–ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೊಳೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ–ಕನಗೊಂಡನಹಳ್ಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (2.00 ಕಿ.ಮೀ) (ವ.ಇ 162548) (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) ರೂ. 140.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ 2 & 3ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗ

INBRIEF

Disruption in power supply today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be no power supply on Saturday in the following areas in view of carrying out pre commissioning tests. According to a release, the areas that will be affected are: EPIP 220/66/11 KV GIS Station: Chinnappanahalli, Annayya Reddy Layout, AECS C Block, Veerappa Reddy Layout, Vinayaka Layout, Maruthi Layout, Silver Spring Road, ITPL Main Road, BEML Layout, Doddanekundi Extension. 220/66/11 Kv EPIP MUSS: Bagmane Neon Block, Nallurahalli, Chinnamma Layout, Gayathri Tech Park, Netra Techpark and surrounding areas.

Regional-level pension adalat to be held on January 19

The Department of Posts will conduct a Regional-Level 'Pension Adalat' at the Office of the Postmaster General, Bengaluru (Hq) Region, Palace Road on January 19, at 10.30 a.m. According to a release from the office of the Postmaster General, Bengaluru Head Quarters Region, this adalat is being conducted for pensioners/family pensioners who have retired from the Department of Posts, Bengaluru Hq Region and have grievances if any, regarding their pension related matters. They may submit their representation to The Postmaster General Bengaluru Hq Region on or before January 12.

Spotlight

Read longform articles from our regional editions

- **Delhi:** Dusk descends on beedi rollers of Murshidabad **bit.ly/beedirollers**
- **Kerala:** Kerala's houseboat sector in uncharted waters **bit.ly/houseboatsector**
- **Tamil Nadu:** Namakkal: from thatched sheds to the poultry capital of Tamil Nadu **bit.ly/poultrycapital**
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Lessons need to be learned from recent stampedes **bit.ly/stampedesinap**
- **Telangana:** Numaish carnival and its ripple effect on the country's economy **bit.ly/numaishcarnival**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Govt. takes exception to nature of reservation for local students at NLSIU

Karnataka government's stand is that students selected under All India Ranking list should not be counted under the reservation for locals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Law School of India University in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Karnataka government has raised strong objection to the nature of reservation – "25% horizontal compartmentalised reservation" – provided to Karnataka students at National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bengaluru.

Days after Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy wrote to Vice Chancellor Sudhir Krishnaswamy taking exception to the nature of reservation at the university, Higher Education Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan wrote to the VC on Friday reiterating the State government's demand for 25% reservation for Karnataka domicile students at the University.

"Students who are selected under All India Ranking list should not be counted under the reservation for locals. This amounts to violation of norms and against the principles of natural justice," Dr. Ashwath Narayan said in a statement on Friday. Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said horizontal compartmentalised reservation was detrimental to the interests of Karnataka students and the government would fight for a vertical 25% reservation at the University.

NLSIU's stand

However, in a statement issued on Friday evening, NLSIU said Karnataka High Court had struck down the validity of National Law School (Amendment) Act, 2020, an amendment which had provided for 25% horizontal reservation for Karnataka students. Government of Karnataka has challenged the order in Supreme Court which is an ongoing litigation and no interim order was issued. Hence, the High Court order is the applicable law on the matter, NLSIU argued.

"While the litigation before the Hon'ble Supreme Court is ongoing, the University after due consultations, and with the approval of the Governing Bodies of NLSIU adopted the "NLSIU Inclusion and Expansion Plan 2021-2025" on 17 April, 2021. Under the terms of this Plan, NLSIU voluntarily adopted a 25% horizontal compartmentalised reservation for Karnataka students from the academic year 2021-22. Hence, NLSIU ensures that Karnataka students are admitted to 25% of seats in every vertical category, including General/ SC/ ST/ OBC/ EWS and as a result, constitute at least 25% of the overall student body," a press release from NLSIU said.

However, Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said the government did not pursue the case in Supreme Court as the University said they would provide for 25% reservation for Karnataka students. "But, the nature of reservation now being provided is detrimental to the interest of the students of Karnataka. We will fight it out in the court," he said.

Police bust gang that duped people with fake loans

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sleuths from Central Crime Branch have busted a gang that was cheating people by promising them large sum of loans and giving them counterfeit currency notes. Police have seized counterfeit currency notes of face value of ₹1.28 crore from the gang. The arrested have been identified as Pichamuthu, 48, Nallakani, 53 and Subramanyam, 60, all residents of Tamil Nadu.

Acting on a tip-off that the gang had been transporting counterfeit currency notes in a bus, CCB sleuths raided and arrested Pichamathu and the leads he gave led to the arrest of two others. Police have recovered 6,203 notes of 2,000 face value and 174 notes of 500 face value that sums up to ₹1.28 crore. Police have recovered printers and other devices used to print the counterfeits.

The trio would approach people in need of urgent loans and offer to provide them huge sum at a low interest. They would register a loan deed for the person interested and make him pay 1% of the loan amount as processing fee and give the loanee counterfeits and flee.

State govt. will protect interests of children and parents, says Minister

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

In a bid to "protect the interests of children and parents", the Karnataka government is planning to challenge the High Court order that declared as unconstitutional sections of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, which prohibits private unaided schools from collecting fee in any manner other than what is prescribed by the State.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, B.C. Nagesh, Minister for School Education and Literacy, said, "We will take legal opinion and take an appropriate decision. We will protect the interests of the children and parents."

'Children to be impacted'

Meanwhile, several parents and education experts have described the judgement as "unfortunate", and blamed the government for its "inability to defend its law".

Sijo Sebastian, joint secretary, Voice of Parents Association, said, "The judgement will impact thousands of children's fundamental right to education, which is ensured by the Right to Education Act. The government has taken a lackadaisical approach, without pointing to provisions in the RTE Act and rules that explain the government's power to control private schools."

Niranjanaradhya V.P., development educationist, argued that the judgement failed to recognise the larger public interest through reasonable regulation. Though the Constitution provides for its citizens to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business, this is not an absolute right, he said.

"Here, the State has failed to protect the larger interests of the children and parents by defending its own law enacted by the legislature in the court," he said.

'Govt. can't rigidly fix fee'

However, disputing this line of argument, Shashikumar D., general secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, said the State government had amended Karnataka Education Act, 1983, in 2018 and inserted Sections 48, 5A, 2(11A) and 112A, which was challenged by the organisation as unconstitutional.

"Now the court has declared all these sections – which bring CBSE schools also under this Act and rigidly fixes fee, imposes overriding rules on children's safety, and forms District Education Regulatory Authority committees to regulate private schools – as unconstitutional," he said.

He added that while the government has the power to regulate fee, it does not have the right to "rigidly fix it" as the government intended to do.

HC seeks response from govt. over plea questioning legality of KSCPCR chairperson's appointment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

FROM THE COURT

The petitioner has claimed that Gowda does not possess the qualification of doing 'outstanding work for promoting welfare of children' as prescribed in the provisions of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday ordered issue of notice to the State government on a PIL petition questioning the legality of appointing K. Naganna Gowda as Chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR).

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi passed the order while hearing the petition filed by Sudha Katwa, a city-based advocate.

It has been alleged in the petition that Mr. Gowda was appointed to the post due to his political connection as he was associated with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party as its Mandya district unit president besides running a non-government organisation.

The petitioner, citing information secured though RTI Act, has claimed that the name of Mr. Gowda was not in the original list of shortlisted 10 candidates based on the notification issued in February 2022 inviting applications to select persons to the post of Chairperson. However, names of two persons, including that of Mr. Gowda was added to the list of shortlisted candidates and Mr. Gowda was chosen for the post in the meeting chaired by the Minister for Women and Child Welfare on October 21, 2022, and he was appointed and assumed the office on the same day. It has been contended in the petition that the selection process was not transparent one as the authorities have not provided the profile of Mr. Gowda despite applying under the RTI Act.

The petitioner has also claimed that Mr. Gowda does not possess the qualification of doing 'outstanding work for promoting welfare of children' as prescribed in the provisions of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 for selecting a person to the post of Chairperson.

52nd Alumni Day at UVCE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Alumni Association of University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering recently organised the 52nd Alumni Day. According to a release from the University, Dr. Gopalan Jagadish, Senior Professor Aerospace Engineering, IISc., inaugurated the event as the chief guest. Dr. Jagadish in his speech highlighted the controlled thoughts, humanity and design thinking by illustrating various situations. On the occasion, five alumni namely Dr. Subba Rao, Padmashri Venkatesh Prahlad Rama Rao, Dr.S.S.Iyengar, Dr. Prasanna Kumar and Dr.Gopalan Jagadish were felicitated.

INBRIEF

HC notice to govt. on failure to appoint SPCA chairperson

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday ordered the issue of notice to the State government on a PIL petition complaining about the failure of the government to appoint the chairperson and a member from the civil society to the State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA).

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi passed the order on the petition filed by Sudha Katwa, a city-based advocate.

Pointing out that the post of a member representing civil society became vacant in May 2022 and the post of the chairperson (a retired judge of the High Court) became vacant on August 11, 2022, the petitioner alleged that the government had not taken any step to fill the posts.

Y.S.V. Datta to join Congress on January 15

The former JD(S) legislator Y.S.V. Datta will be joining the Congress in Bengaluru on January 15 in the presence of KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah.

Mr. Datta told mediapersons at Yagati village in Chikkamagaluru district on Friday that his supporters would be joining the Congress at a programme in Kadur. "I have been in touch with people of Kadur. Many have favoured me joining the Congress. The people of the constituency are looking for change," he said.

On his long association with the JD(S), Mr. Datta said he had been with the party's national president H.D. Deve Gowda for 50 years. "He made me an MLC, and that changed my political career. However, due to unavoidable reasons, I am joining the Congress. I am embarrassed to convey my decision to him. But, I believe, he will understand my situation," he said.

Mr. Datta was elected to the Legislative Assembly from Kadur in 2013 on the JD(S) ticket. Earlier, he served as a member of the Legislative Council. He contested again on the JD(S) ticket in 2018, but lost the election.

What has 'double-engine' govt. done for Kannada, asks Doddarange Gowda

He claimed that Sanskrit got ₹643 crore and Tamil ₹23 crore while Kannada got ₹3 crore between 2017 and 2020 from the Union government for classical language research

Girish Pattanashetti
HAVERI

Focus on language: Doddarange Gowda, president of the 86th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana, being taken in an embellished chariot in a grand procession to the venue of the literary event in Haveri on Friday. SANJAY RITTI

In an embarrassment to BJP leaders who keep harping on the benefits of a "double-engine government", president of the 86th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana and renowned poet Doddarange Gowda on Friday sought to know what the State and Union governments had really done for the cause of Kannada, particularly with regard to its classical language status.

In his address at the inauguration of the three-day sammelana in Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's home district Haveri, which got off to a colourful start on Friday, Mr. Gowda compared the fund allocation to classical languages for studies and research to illustrate the alleged discrimination.

What is the use?

"This is not a complaint from Kannada alone but also from other classical languages, including Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odiya. The Union government released grants amounting to ₹643 crore between 2017 and 2020 for studies in Sanskrit. For the same period, grants released for studies and research in Kannada was ₹3 crore and for Tamil ₹23 crore. Between 2017 and 2021, the grant released for Tamil was ₹42 crore. If such is the situation, what is the use of getting classical language status? What has the Union government, which keeps talking about the benefits of double-engine government, done for Kannada?" he asked.

Mr. Gowda said the responsibility of bringing the money due towards studies in classical language was on the ruling dispensation in Karnataka. He suggested setting up a high-level committee under the chairmanship of the Minister for Kannada and Culture to pursue the issue. He also suggested constitution of a committee led by an Additional Chief Secretary to study the Tamil Nadu model on classical language studies, and emulate the same.

Tech education

Among the other issues he highlighted was the need for facilitating technical education in Kannada. He suggested setting up 'Kannada Jnana Vijnana Tantrajana Karyapade' (Kannada knowledge science and technology task force) and bringing out a 'Word Corpus' to suggest Kannada equivalent for various technical terms.

"This apart, curriculum for technical education in Kannada should be framed. The government should encourage students who come forward to pursue technical education completely in Kannada by bearing their educational expenses," he said.

More content on OTT

Pointing out the demand for dubbed films in Kannada, particularly on OTT platforms, Mr. Gowda said that Kannadigas should build pressure on getting more original content in Kannada as well, and that the government should come up with supporting policies. He cited the example of Nordic thrillers that are now a million-dollar industry.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Bommai promised that the comprehensive legislation for the development of Kannada would be passed in the next session of legislature.

Panchamasali quota: Minister opposes deadline set by seer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

C.C. Patil

Public Works Minister C.C. Patil, who belongs to the Panchamasali-Lingayat community, on Friday said it was not proper on the part of Panchamasali mutt seer Basava Jaya Mruthyunjaya Swami and BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal to set a 24-hour deadline to the government seeking inclusion of the community in the 2A category of the OBC reservation matrix.

'90% work done'

At a press conference here, Mr. Patil said the government had not diluted the reservation quota and was looking into all technical and legal issues to face any legal scrutiny. He claimed the government had completed "90% work" on providing the reservation for the Panchamasali community and it had been examining the remaining 10% work that involved some technical issues. Community leaders and seers have to cooperate with the government and should have patience till their demands are met, Mr. Patil said.

The Panchamasali Reservation Agitation Committee has rejected the State government's offer to include the community in the new 2D category of reservation matrix. Mr. Yatnal blamed Industries Minster Murugesh Nirani for the delay in the State government announcing the reclassification of reservation for the community.

'No connection'

Mr. Patil said there was no connection between him and the ₹10 lakh cash recovered by the security personnel at the West Gate of the Vidhana Soudha from a Junior Engineer with the PWD. The official was caught while carrying unaccounted cash on Wednesday. The official, J. Jagadeesh, was subsequently arrested by the police.

Stone crushers withdraw strike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Federation of Karnataka Quarry and Stone Crushers Owners Association has withdrawn the indefinite strike it had been on since December 21. This comes after Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai chaired a meeting with stone crusher owners in the presence of other Ministers concerned on Friday evening. Stone crushers will resume operations from Saturday.

Ravindra Shetty, president of the association, said the Chief Minister had assured them that the government would resolve all the issues they raised but in a phased manner after discussing it in the State Cabinet. Mr. Shetty said the Chief Minister had assured them that the government would collect the royalty for jelly stones and m-sand only from the crushers and not from the contractors again. The association had also demanded that a drone survey of the mines should be put off till the government brings amendments to the rules governing crushers.

KGF Babu suspended from party after saying Congress will not win more than 80 seats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an embarrassment to the Opposition Congress, its party leader Yousuf Shariff alias KGF Babu on Friday said the party would not win more than 80 seats in the Legislative Assembly elections scheduled to be held in April-May this year. He was suspended from the party later in the day.

He was a ticket aspirant for the Chickpet constituency; he had said the party was giving priority to caste and seniority and not winnability

Addressing presspersons at the KPCC office here, Mr. Shariff, who is the ticket aspirant for the Chickpet constituency in Bengaluru, said the party had been giving priority to caste and seniority and not winnability while considering applications for the ticket.

"The party will not cross 80 seats and there is overconfidence among the leaders that the party will come to power," he said.

Notice

Following this, K. Rahman Khan, chairman of the disciplinary committee of the KPCC, issued a notice suspending Mr. Shariff for his "repeated anti-party statements" to the media. He had not given a satisfactory reply to earlier notices, Mr. Khan said.

On Friday morning, Mr. Shariff had been called for a meeting by senior leaders at the party office to discuss the selection of candidates and strategy in the Bengaluru South region. AICC secretary Abhishek Dutt, KPCC working president Ramalinga Reddy, and senior leader B.L. Shankar were among those who attended the meeting.

Mr. Shariff's claim was in contrast to KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar's survey which indicated that the party would win 136 seats.

Mr. Shariff contested as the Congress candidate in the Legislative Council election from Bengaluru Urban and had declared assets close to ₹1,700 crore in his affidavit to the Election Commission in 2021. He grew up in Kolar Gold Fields and worked in the scrap material division of Bharat Gold Mines, and had planned to contest as an Independent if he was denied the ticket to contest from Chickpet.

Karnataka Institutes of Technology to be modelled on IIT-Madras

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A file photo of the Government Engineering College in Hassan, which is among the institutions identified for upgrading to KIT.

The proposed Karnataka Institutes of Technology (KITs) will be modelled on the lines of the Indian Institute Technology (IIT) Madras. The committee headed by professor S. Sadagopan will submit its report in this regard to the Karnataka government soon. The committee is expected to recommend academic and financial autonomy to the institutions.

In the 2022-23 State Budget, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had announced the upgrading of seven government engineering colleges as KITs to improve quality and offer the IIT model of technical education. The government has identified engineering colleges in Hassan, Bengaluru, Haveri, K.R. Pet, Ramanagaram, Talakal (Koppal district), and Karwar to be upgraded as KITs.

The government has appointed an expert committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Sadagopan to help in the transition. The committee recently visited IIT-Madras to study the infrastructure, technology, teaching method, academic autonomy, financial autonomy, and administration system.

N. Ravichandran, director of Technical Education and member-secretary of the expert committee, told *The Hindu*, "During our two-day visit to IIT-Madras, we observed well-equipped modern laboratories, computer network, well-stocked technical library, teaching methods using traditional and modern instructional techniques, and infrastructure. We are planning to implement all those in the KITs," he said. "IIT-Madras is an autonomous institution. We would like all the KITs to be autonomous institutions with an independent governing body. Therefore, we will recommend academic autonomy and financial autonomy for all these institutions. We will submit the report soon," he said.

Visvesvaraya Technological University
"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi –590 018, Karnataka State

Ref. No.VTU/BGM/RE/2022-23/IFT No.34 / 5773 Date: 6 JAN 2023

Tender Notification- (e-Procurement Only)

The e-tender is invited from eligible tenderers, registered contractor/firm/agency by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi-18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the works of; 1)Providing, supplying & installation of 100 KLD-MBR STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) at VTU Regional Centre, Kalaburagi (Two Cover System) amounting to Rs.73,19,170/-, 2)Providing and fixing Aluminum partition with door, supply of chairs, curtains and podium to MBA, CCT, Mechanical & MCA & EC Department to P.G. Building at VTU Regional Center, Kalaburagi amounting to Rs.20,63,326/-, 3)Minor Repair and Replacement of Tiles in Toilet Rooms (GF) at Guest House Building, VTU Regional Centre, Kalaburagi amounting to Rs.10,16,950/- & 4)Construction of Room to Electrician and Providing shed for Diesel Generator near Sub-Station Building at VTU Regional Centre, Kalaburagi amounting to Rs.7,27,119/-.The tenderers, who have executed similar nature of single work costing 50% of amount put to tender, shall only apply for these works. Other details log on to website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on 10.01.2023.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1505/MCA/2022-23

Sd/-Registrar, VTU Belagavi

Government of Karanataka
Zilla Panchayat Bidar.
DIST HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE BIDAR.
Phone: 08482-233126/27. Fax: 08482-233127. E-mail: dhobidar@gmail.com

No: Sup/KKRDB/CR- 93/2022-23. Date:06.01.2023

-: SHORTTERM TENDER NOTIFICATION :-

Tender is invited by District Health and Family Welfare Officer Bidar Under Hydrabad Karnataka Regional Development Board, Micro Plan and its Subordinate health institutions for the year 2022-23 for the supply of Ambulances on Two cover system through e-procurement portal. EMD of the tender amount is 2.5%. each tender The e-procurement web site address is www.https://eproc.karnataka. gov.in can be seen on or after 06.01.2023 . Last Date of Submission of Tender on 13.01.2023 up to 5:00 pm and Tender opening Date(Technical Bid) on 14.01.2023 at 5.30 pm. Venue of opening the Tender District Health and Family Welfare Office, Opp: Prayavi Hospital, Bidar. The details as follows.

SL. NO	INSTUTE NAME	FILE NUMBER	AMOUNT IN LAKHS	REG.
1	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of BLS Ambulance REQUIRED TO THE Hallikhed(k) UNDER KKRDB FOR THE YEAR -2022-23.	DHO/KKRDB/CR-01/2022-23	19.00	
2	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of BLS Ambulance REQUIRED TO THE JANAWADA & CHILLARGI Villages UNDER KKRDB FOR THE YEAR -2022-23.	DHO/KKRDB/CR-02/2022-23	38.50	
3	Providing Ambulance Services to the Health Institutions of Aurad Taluka, Torna, Hedgapur, Dabaka, Aurad(B). and Mini Ambulance to PHC Thanakushnoor UNDER KKRDB FOR THE YEAR -2022-23.	DHO/KKRDB/CR-04/2022-23	90.00	

The right of rejecting the Tender without assigning any reason vests with District Health and Family Welfare Officer Bidar.

More details can be obtained during the office hours.

DIPR/Bidar/408/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer Bidar

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ
ಟೆ.ಪ್ರಸಂ: ಕಾಇಂ:ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀ&ನೈವಿಉ:ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಂ.46/2022–23/ಎಇಂ–2/1566 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.01.2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ e-procurment portal ನಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಉಡುಪಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರಿಂದ "ಜಲ್ ಜೀವನ್ ಮಿಷನ್" ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮನೆ ಮನೆಗೆ ನಳ್ಳಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕದ ಮೂಲಕ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 27.64 ಲಕ್ಷ ರಿಂದ 77.46 ಲಕ್ಷದ ವರೆಗೆ 4 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. (ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜೆ.ಜೆ.ಎಂ. ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿತ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.)

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.01.2023 ರಿಂದ 23.01.2023 ರ 4.00 PM ವರೆಗೆ.** (2) ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.01.2023 ರ 11.00 AM** (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.01.2023 ರ 11.00 AM** ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಇಎಂಡಿ ವಿವರ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **E-proc portal helpdesk: 080-22371090/2237378 Hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಉ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/753/22–23 ದಿ: 06.01.2023

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ

INBRIEF

Need three years to pay pensionary benefits: KSRTC

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) on Friday told the High Court that it needed three years to pay pensionary benefits to its retired employees as it had no financial resources. When a batch of petitions seeking payment of pensionary benefits to retired employees came up for hearing, Justice Devan Ramachandran said though the court may consider grant of reasonable time to the KSRTC to honour the commitments, it could not *prima facie* be more than four to six months after a person retired from service. The court said it was only a tentative time frame since a final view was possible only after taking note of the difficulties faced by the majority of the pensioners.

Appointment of principals of 3 law colleges set aside

Kerala Administrative Tribunal finds they are not made in accordance with UGC norms 2010; Bench says the list approved by the State government not based on qualified teachers' record

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Kerala Administrative Tribunal has set aside the appointment of the principal of the Government Law College in Ernakulam. FILE PHOTO

The appointments of the principals to the Government Law Colleges of Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, and Thrissur were set aside by the Kerala Administrative Tribunal (KAT) on Friday after it was found that these were not made in accordance with University Grants Commission (UGC) norms.

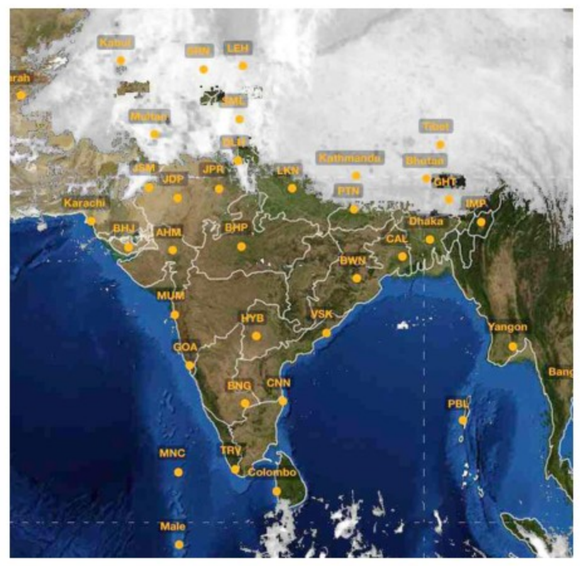
The KAT Bench consisting of P.V. Asha (Judicial Member) and P.K. Kesavan (Administrative Member) ordered the State government to constitute a committee for the selection of Principals following the UGC Regulations of 2010 against all the vacancies of Principals that existed on March 29, 2017. A select list was published on August 30, 2018 for this. The Bench issued the order on a petition filed by S.S. Giri Sankar, Associate Professor, Government Law College, Ernakulam.

The Bench directed the State government to consider all the candidates who were eligible for the post at the relevant time, irrespective of retirement.

The Bench, which found that the appointments were not made in tune with the UGC regulations of 2010, also noted that the select list drawn and approved by the government on August 30, 2018, was not prepared or published in accordance with the UGC norms or based on a selection from among qualified teachers.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over east Rajasthan, east Uttar Pradesh and east Madhya Pradesh. Dense/very dense fog likely in some/isolated pockets over Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Tripura and Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	15.9	11.5	Kozhikode	—	34.0	22.8
Ahmedabad	—	25.5	14.1	Kurnool	—	31.0	21.2
Aizawl	—	—	10.5	Lucknow	—	14.8	5.9
Allahabad	—	12.4	6.4	Madurai	—	32.2	22.4
Bengaluru	—	26.4	16.2	Mangaluru	—	33.8	21.6
Bhopal	—	—	7.3	Mumbai	—	33.5	20.4
Bhubaneswar	—	27.4	14.9	Mysuru	—	30.0	15.2
Chandigarh	—	11.6	5.0	New Delhi	—	16.6	4.0
Chennai	—	30.2	23.7	Patna	—	15.0	7.7
Coimbatore	—	29.6	18.8	Port Blair	—	31.3	25.2
Dehradun	—	20.4	4.4	Puducherry	—	30.7	20.8
Gangtok	—	16.2	6.6	Pune	—	28.7	18.0
Goa	—	34.0	20.5	Raipur	—	26.7	15.0
Guwahati	—	26.2	9.6	Ranchi	—	21.2	6.8
Hubballi	—	30.0	17.0	Shillong	—	17.9	6.7
Hyderabad	—	26.2	20.5	Shimla	—	16.2	6.2
Imphal	—	23.6	5.9	Srinagar	—	6.0	-5.5
Jaipur	—	19.8	3.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	22.7
Kochi	—	31.4	22.6	Tiruchi	—	30.8	22.0
Kohima	—	19.0	6.4	Vijayawada	—	29.2	20.9
Kolkata	—	23.2	11.0	Visakhapatnam	—	27.8	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.32	..70	71	 94	88	
Bengaluru	...8	105	51	... 104	...100	
Chennai	.22	..57	37	... 154	...111	
Delhi	.11	108	87	... 453	...443	
Hyderabad	...5	..11	51	... 227	.....—	
Kolkata	...6	..60	42	... 267	...169	
Lucknow	.13	..45	95	... 349	...282	
Mumbai	.34	201	65	... 316	...270	
Pune	..—	..—	.—	..... —	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	.12	..38	48	... 308	...180	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 434 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

To boost 'Make in India', Centre flags unfair tender norms

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Union government has flagged over a dozen "restrictive and discriminatory" conditions against local suppliers.

The Union government has flagged over a dozen "restrictive and discriminatory" conditions which prevented local suppliers from participating in bidding processes initiated by its various departments and Ministries. The tweaking of the tender conditions was in violation of the Public Procurement-Preference to Make in India (PPP-MII) Order, 2017, issued to protect the interests of local suppliers.

Last week, the Ministry of Railways directed General Managers of all Zonal Railways and production units to make sure that all procuring agencies across the railway network complied with the PPP-MII Order and avoid including any "restrictive and discriminatory" conditions against local suppliers.

The communication follows the latest guidelines issued by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry on December 20, 2022, which highlighted some of the common examples of "restrictive and discriminatory" conditions against local suppliers and some other eligibility norms that were non-compliant to the PPP-MII Order.

The DPIIT in consultation with the Department of Expenditure and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) had identified over a dozen conditions commonly introduced in tender conditions that went against the local suppliers but suited the interests of foreign manufacturers and issued an advisory.

Foreign standards

For instance, the advisory said that foreign technical standards like "minus 25 degree temperature-compatibility" for certain equipment procured for airports were incorporated to eliminate 'Make in India' products without any justification for requirement of that specification value for intended end use of the equipment/service.

Excessive turnover requirement as a pre-qualifying criteria, insisting on specific experience of supplying products to other nations such as export to G-8 countries, were among other conditions that prevented the local manufacturers from taking part in the procurement process, the advisory said.

Global brands

Another criteria which was observed in the procurement of IT, electronic and electrical products was specifying foreign brands either for finished products or for part of scope of work. The report explained that while CISCO, NEC, Alcatel, Siemens products were specified in telecom products, HP, Dell, Lenovo were insisted on IT products.

Youth attacks student for rejecting his advances

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

A stalker, who was allegedly harassing a degree student for the last few days, attacked her causing multiple injuries, at Kondruprolu village in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh on Friday.

The girl's mother and sister, who came to her rescue, too suffered injuries. They have been admitted to the Government General Hospital at Eluru.

According to sources, the accused, G. Kalyan, a daily wage labourer, was allegedly stalking the girl and harassing her over the phone.

The police took the accused into custody a few hours after the incident.

Heavy expectations

Get, set, go: Trainers readying bulls for participating in the racing contest during Sankranti celebrations, in Vijayawada on Friday. K.V.S. GIRI

Congress files complaint about defection of 12 MLAs to TRS

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Congress has lodged a complaint with the Moinabad police in Hyderabad seeking an inquiry into the 12 MLAs who defected to the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (now BRS) in 2019 and club the case with the ongoing investigation into the allegations of Bharatiya Janata Party trying to lure four BRS MLAs.

Telangana Congress president A. Revanth Reddy along with Congress Legislature Party leader Bhatti Vikramarka, AICC secretary Sampath Kumar, TPCC working president Mahesh Kumar Goud and others, handed over the complaint to the Moinabad police.

The Congress, in its complaint, also sought an inquiry against Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who is also the president of the then TRS. It said the offences were punishable under Sections 120-B and 171-B read with Sections 171A and 34 of the India Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 7, 8, 13 and 14 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The investigation should be clubbed with the complaint along with FIR bearing No. 455 of 2022 registered at Moinabad Police Station. The FIR is related to BJP trying to poach the BRS MLAs.

The Congress party further named all the 12 MLAs elected on Congress ticket and later defected to the then TRS and mentioned how each of them benefitted from switching loyalties and these include monetary and political benefits. The complaint said that Sabitha Indra Reddy was inducted into the State Cabinet while Devireddy Sudheer Reddy was made the Chairman of Musi River Front Development Corporation. Rega Kantha Rao was made a Whip in the Assembly. Gandra Venkataramana Reddy got monetary benefits and his wife Jyothi was made the Chairperson of the Bhupalpally Zilla Parishad.

Those who got their contracts and other pending bills cleared included Kandala Upender Reddy, Vanama Venkateshwar Rao, Beeram Harshvardhan Reddy while those who were given money included Athram Sakku, Chirumarthi Lingaiah, Jajala Surender, Rohith Reddy and Haripriya Banoth.

Sircilla weaver crafts unique silk sari with silver threads

P. Sridhar
RAJANNA SIRCILLA

Driven by his artistic flair, 35-year-old weaver Nalla Vijay of Rajanna Sircilla district of Telangana weaved a silk sari with silver gleam on a power loom, adding another masterpiece to his credit.

Mr. Vijay has earned wide acclaim for weaving a sari that fits into a matchbox and making an array of eco-friendly saris using banana and lotus stem fibres besides an exotic sari that spreads natural fragrance.

Now, the skilled weaver from Sircilla has woven a 5.5-metre silk sari using silver threads on his power loom based on an order from an esteemed customer for a special occasion.

Intricately woven: Nalla Vijay showing the sari with silver gleam.

"It took almost 40 days for me to weave the sari with silver threads," says Mr. Vijay.

He adds that the sari weighs around 600 grams.

"Appreciation of artistic endeavour is what motivates us to explore innovative weaving designs," the weaver adds.

Kerala coffee farmers reap benefits of organic farming

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

The traditional coffee farmers of Anchunad at Marayur in Kerala's Idukki are reaping the benefits of organic farming, with a kg of berry (coffee fruit) fetching over ₹50 this year.

Tribespeople and other farmers traditionally follow organic coffee farming in the Anchunad valley. Coffee is mainly cultivated at Kanthalloor, Keezhanthoor, Kulachivayal, and Vettukad and marketed as Keezhanthoor coffee.

Kumaravel, a farmer who owns two acres of coffee at Keezhanthoor, says there are around 200 traditional coffee farmers at Keezhanthoor. Keezhanthoor coffee, an Arabica variety, is famous for its taste and aroma. This year, farmers received better income from coffee, he says.

In demand: An organic coffee plantation at Keezhanthoor in Idukki.

"The Manarcadu Social Service Society and other vendors are ready to buy coffee fruit. Last year, the price of coffee fruit was ₹25 to ₹35 a kg and this year farmers got ₹50 for a kg," says Mr. Kumaravel.

The Manarcadu Social Service Society, a group based in Kottayam, largely procures coffee beans from farmers for export. Its chief executive officer Sreekumar M.S. says this year the society procured around 50 tonnes of coffee from Keezhanthoor.

"Farmers do not use pesticides and chemicals for coffee farming. The collected coffee berry is processed and exported to the United States, United Kingdom, and Germany besides other nations. This year, we paid a maximum of ₹50 for a kg of beans to farmers," says Mr. Sreekumar.

Special brand

"A farmers' society under us is functioning at Keezhanthoor for ensuring organic farming and procuring beans. We are trying to develop Keezhanthoor coffee as a special brand," he says.

Divisional Forest Officer of the Marayur Sandalwood Division M.G. Vinodkumar says every week around 2,000 kg of coffee fruit arrive at the Chilla tribal produce market. "This year, farmers received an average of ₹50 to ₹56 a kg. The whole fruit is sold and vendors specially process the beans and export the product," he says.

"Traditional organic farming is the speciality of the coffee," says Mr. Vinodkumar.

Chilla, an exclusive tribal market under the Marayur forest division, is open on Thursdays to sell produce cultivated by the tribespeople. The initiative was started in 2014.

Unhappy New Year

The Centre must adopt multiple processes of engagement in J&K

Six civilians, including two children, were killed in brutal acts of terrorism in Dangri in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri in the first week of the new year. The police and authorities in Srinagar and New Delhi remain tight-lipped about the incidents. It is evident that the perpetrators intended to spread maximum terror among the Hindus in the area. They barged into houses on January 1 and fired indiscriminately, killing four civilians and injuring 10 others. Just within 15 hours, an improvised explosive device went off outside the house of one of the victims, leaving two minors dead and five others injured. The Jammu region has been relatively insulated from the conflict in recent years, but the recent incidents portend the return of a grim past. Rajouri had turned peaceful, and the last major targeting of Hindus was 16 years ago. It has a long penetrable Line of Control with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and remained an active route for militants to cross over to the Kashmir Valley. In 2022, there were clear signs that the district was becoming a new theatre of violence, with at least four grenade attacks, and multiple encounters between security forces and militants. There were also indications of local involvement.

J&K parties in one voice condemned the attack on minorities and targeted the Lieutenant Governor (LG)'s administration for its failure to secure civilians. LG Manoj Sinha has promised strict action to curb terrorism and address the security needs of the region. There is fresh demand to revive Village Defence Committees, which were constituted in 1995 in 10 districts of the Jammu region to fight militants in remote places where security presence is thin. These were disbanded following allegations of high-handedness by armed volunteers. While the Centre is eager to portray its strong-arm policy in Kashmir that has shunned political dialogue as a success, new trends in terrorism, including frequent targeting of migrant workers in the Union Territory, act as grim reminders of the volatility. At least 29 civilians were killed in J&K in 2022, most of them migrant workers or local Hindus. While new experiments may yield different results in J&K, the old approach to allow multiple processes of engagement to address issues in a democratic way might still work. In the absence of an elected government in J&K since 2018, even the mainstream of the region is drifting away from New Delhi. A continuing political process is not a sufficient guarantee against Pakistan-backed terrorism, but it is a necessary condition in any resolution of the Kashmir conflict.

A brief respite

Russia's temporary truce should be the basis for a lasting solution

Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to observe a 36-hour ceasefire on the front line in Ukraine comes at a time when his troops are struggling to cope with a series of battlefield setbacks and mounting casualties. The Kremlin's version is that it ordered the ceasefire, from Friday noon till Saturday midnight, as Orthodox Christians in both countries celebrate Christmas on January 7. Ukraine has questioned Russia's sincerity, saying the Kremlin would use the pause in fighting to replenish and rearm its forces and move more soldiers to the line of contact. Yet, if observed by both sides, this would be the first ceasefire on the entire front line since the war began on February 24 last year. Mr. Putin's move appears more like a sign of weakness than any serious push for peace. On New Year's day, Russia lost at least 89 soldiers when Ukraine targeted the eastern city of Makiivka where hundreds of troops were temporarily stationed. In Bakhmut, the eastern city that has been under attack for six months, Ukraine says its troops pushed back the Russians.

Russia, which made some territorial gains in the early phase of the war, has been struggling to build battlefield momentum ever since Ukraine, armed and bankrolled by the collective West, started its counter-offensive in late August. Ukraine recaptured swathes of territories from Russia, including much of the Kharkiv Oblast in the north-east and Kherson city in the south. Faced with battlefield setbacks, Gen. Sergey Surovikin, the new commander for the war, changed strategy – he redirected the offensive focus towards Donetsk, started building stronger defence lines across the vast front line, and launched a heavy bombardment campaign targeting Ukraine's critical energy infrastructure. The air strikes have partially damaged Ukraine's energy grid and disrupted power and water supplies to millions, but they have not changed the ground reality. If Ukraine survives winter, fighting could pick up pace. The U.S. and Germany have already announced that they would send Patriot missile systems to Ukraine. The U.S., France and Germany would also be sending armoured vehicles, to better prepare Kyiv for the coming land war. Cornered in the war theatre, Mr. Putin might come under enhanced pressure to escalate the conflict. But continuing this war will be costly for all sides. If the ceasefire holds for 36 hours, Mr. Putin should extend it further and seek dialogue, without preconditions, with both Ukraine and its backers in the West. The temporary truce should be the beginning of a lasting one.

The crisis in international law

Prabhash Ranjan

is Professor and Vice Dean, Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal Global University. Views are personal

Securitisation, populism, and protectionism threaten the core universal values enshrined in international law

In an influential essay written more than two decades ago, Professor Hilary Charlesworth, who is now a judge at the International Court of Justice, described international law as "a discipline of crisis". Not much has changed since then. Just when the world was recovering from the pain induced by COVID-19, Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year once again highlighted the 'crisis' dimension of international law. One of the underlying bases of the post-world war international legal order has been to explicitly outlaw war through the adoption of the United Nations (UN) Charter. While the UN Charter has succeeded in ensuring that the world does not fight another world war, it has failed in stopping inter-state wars. This year is going to further test the limits of international law, not just because of Russia's ongoing illegal war, but also due to several other factors that will play out in the next 12 months and beyond.

The geo-economic challenge

The world post-World War II was a bipolar one with great power competition between a 'capitalist' America and a 'communist' Soviet Union. The end of the Cold War led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the collapse of communism. This 'unipolar' moment gave a leg-up to multilateralism and led to three decades of what C. Raja Mohan calls "relative harmony" among the major powers. However, even during this period, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization bombed Kosovo and the Western forces invaded Iraq in complete disregard to the UN Charter. As Ralph Wilde argues, these U.S.-led military actions did not attract as vociferous an international response as the Russian invasion of Ukraine did.

The 'relative harmony' phase saw the spread of democracy, greater acceptance of universal human rights, and a global consensus for maintaining international rule of law with multilateral institutions and independent international courts acting as referees. However, these universal values are under threat as we have entered a multipolar world involving the securitisation of international law. The major powers are at each other's throats. Today international law faces a new ground reality – the dwindling of the 'liberal' and 'capitalist' West and the rise of an 'autocratic' China and 'expansionist' Russia. The meteoric rise of China means that Beijing is now flexing its muscles, including by weaponising international law. China views law as an instrument in the service of the state. This is diametrically opposed to the rule of law theory in liberal democracies where the law's function is to constrain unbridled state power. The Westphalian notion of international law that ostensibly championed international rule of law and territorial integrity of states is now pitted against Chinese and Russian versions that believe in gaming international law for national interests. Under the Chinese and Russian versions, the territorial integrity of nations and the sovereignty of states doesn't quite matter. For instance, the Russian approach towards international law believes that the basis of international law is not universal but cultural and civilisational distinctness. The Russian vision of international law, in complete violation of the UN Charter, distinguishes between countries that are truly sovereign and countries that possess nominal or limited sovereignty, such as Ukraine. As this clash between different visions of international law sharpens in 2023, it will push international law into a deeper crisis.

REUTERS

International economic lawlessness

An important fallout of the rise of the geo-economic order is the concomitant spread of economic protectionism. The rise of China has set the cat among the pigeons in the U.S., which is desperate to ensure its continued hegemony. Washington is fast backtracking on the neoliberal consensus of interdependence and non-discrimination in international economic law that it laboriously built in the last three decades. The recent adoption of the Inflation Reduction Act in the U.S., which aims to transition to clean energy by providing massive industrial subsidies to domestic American companies at the cost of imports and foreign companies, is a case in point. Likewise, the U.S. has vehemently rejected the recent World Trade Organization (WTO) panel reports that held the U.S.'s protectionist industrial policies masquerading as national security objectives illegal. The U.S. has also strangled the WTO's effective dispute settlement mechanism by relentlessly blocking the appointment of the Appellate Body members. All these challenges are only going to become ominous in 2023 leading to greater lawlessness in the world economy.

The populist challenge

Although leaders such as Donald Trump and Jair Bolsonaro have demitted office, international law in 2023 will continue to face challenges from populist and ethno-nationalist regimes in several countries such as Hungary, Turkey, Poland, and Israel. Populists attack the legitimacy of international law and refer to it as foreign law, which is inimical to their national interests. International law, in the populist scheme of things, is often reduced to a mere law of coordination. This law of coordination is not aimed at international cooperation to develop and espouse common global values, but only to ensure a minimal relationship between countries with common ideational moorings. Populists also attack international institutions and international courts for thwarting them from pursuing the interests of the 'pure' people they claim to represent. They enact domestic laws to protect the ethnic identity of the 'pure' people even if these laws undermine international law.

Scholars characterise the crisis in international law in different ways. B.S. Chimni believes that a crisis in international law will exist if the phenomenon of imperialism is not addressed. On the other hand, the late James Crawford argued that crises occur in international law because of "the absence of any constitutional order, other than constitutional order of States". This, arguably, allows nationalism to trump international law. Still others such as Jan Klabbers contend that the crisis of international law today is the crisis of liberal democracy. Regardless of the characterisation, the fact remains that the liberal international legal order is under attack from many sides. Will 2023 see the international community fight back against the relentless assaults posed by securitisation, populism, and protectionism on core universal values that international law enshrines?

Political parties are not like companies

Ruchi Gupta

is the Executive Director of the Future of India Foundation. Twitter: @guptar

Drawing an analogy between political parties and companies is misleading and leads to distorted ideas of how parties function

A popular trope among political commentators, especially in the aftermath of important elections, is that political parties are like corporations and their leaders like CEOs. The analogy is made to press home the point that just as CEOs are held accountable for a bad quarter, so should the leaders of political parties for poor election results. This analogy is misleading and leads to distorted ideas of how political parties function. This is especially problematic in India because unlike, say, in the U.S., there is little space for the politics of negotiation and compromise outside of political parties. Therefore, the key to understanding Indian politics is understanding how political parties function.

Differences

A key difference between a political party and a company is that parties have claimants and volunteers while a company has employees. This difference has an impact on all aspects of decision-making and operations of the two entities. The purpose of a political party is to capture state power in service of some stated social agenda. To legitimise this aspiration, the party itself must be seen to be as a microcosm of society, with its organisation necessarily populated by individuals in a volunteer capacity as opposed to paid employees. Thus, while all parties have some paid employees, positions which enable the people holding them to exercise political judgment and have executive authority, such as area presidents and in-charges, are honorary ones. Despite this, there are multiple claimants for every position commensurate with associated prestige and power.

On the other hand, most private companies operate in a narrowly defined and apolitical space selling goods and services. Politics – in the sense which conveys value judgment about the trajectory of society itself and its consequent trade-offs – is not part of a corporation's role. Even if there is an element of political judgment in the functioning of the corporation, it is exercised at the top as opposed to individual employees having to exercise political judgment at their level. Thus, a corporation is entirely staffed by paid employees performing well-defined, non-overlapping roles with the reasonable expectation that their professional skills will suffice for their work.

With the above context, it is evident that the analogy of a political party as a company makes little sense. A political party must manage trade-offs between multiple conflicting interests, generate consensus, and then mobilise the electorate around its chosen narrative. This is a more nebulous space than one in which pre-defined goods and services are exchanged for profit. Moreover, multiple claimants for every position inevitably queer the pitch for the party's operations. Given the public nature of political parties, it is neither advisable nor possible to exclude claimants from participation in the organisation's functioning though the influence of dissidents is often curtailed. Since political parties are in the business of opinion-making, internal dissonance and conflict of interest have a direct bearing on a party's ability to perform, especially in a competitive electoral landscape. Examples include contradictory statements made by party functionaries during important campaigns, sabotage and leaks, rebel candidates, or sheer inactivity. When such internal factionalism comes out in the public, it has a cascading effect on all aspects of the party's operations from outreach to fundraising.

It may be suggested at this point that a political party could sort out these issues through 'discipline'. However, unlike employees, political functionaries cannot be 'fired', especially since many may not have a post to begin with. This is because political functionaries don't just perform a role but also serve as representatives of some or other interests. The ability to enforce discipline in a political party is thus directly related to the ability of the leadership to consolidate power at the top. This points to a fundamental difference between a political party and a corporation: in a political party, power is more informal and dynamic than in a corporation. Hence, corporate notions of hierarchy, compartmentalisation, professionalisation, discipline and accountability do not translate well within a political setting. In a corporation, a promoter can outsource management to a 'professional' without worrying about losing control as long as s/he controls majority shares. However, in a political party, power once delegated can be lost if the representative interests realign.

Recent trends

Given these vagaries in the functioning of political parties, there are indeed discernible trends towards 'corporatisation' and 'professionalisation' of parties. Political parties are starting to prune political judgment from various positions, such as in the case of spokespersons where their articulation of the party stand is completely divorced from actual decision-making authority. Similarly, the anti-defection bill divests political discretion from elected representatives by constraining them to the whip and vesting all decision-making in the party leadership. Chief Ministers using the bureaucracy to bypass Ministers and the use of political consultants to bypass the party organisation are other examples of professionalisation of political parties. However, instead of improving efficiency, this has resulted in further degradation of overall public purpose. Pruning political discretion from positions has made individuals in those positions expendable like employees and less capable of negotiating the party's internal power structures. The 'professionalisation' of politics has also facilitated rampant party hopping by political functionaries in the manner of employees flitting across companies. This reduces the overall credibility of the political space.

Ultimately, politics is a value-driven enterprise. We should seek competence and accountability from political functionaries, but the way forward is not through the corporatisation of our parties.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Evicting the poor

The Uttarakhand High Court and the state should not have been so inhumane ("SC thwarts eviction from Railway land in Haldwani," Jan. 6). Those who are said to be occupants of government land are Indian citizens; they are impoverished people who don't have the wherewithal to buy new land and construct new houses. Nobody is against the expansion of the Railways, but this shouldn't take place while leaving the residents of the locality on the streets. Patriotism is something to practise, not just profess. To be patriotic, one needs to show empathy towards fellow citizens.

G. David Milton
Kanniyakumari

The fact that the occupants of the land have been living there for many decades does not confer on them legal rights over the property. But the Railways should have taken cognisance of this problem when the land came under illegal occupation instead of sleeping over the matter all this time. The humanitarian angle must be considered now.

V. Johan Dhanakumar
Chennai

It is puzzling why the Uttarakhand High Court acted so strongly on a PIL when neither the Railways nor the State government had moved the court. It is heartening that the Supreme Court has stayed the High Court order.

Syed Sultan Mohiddin
Kadapa

States sometimes throw the rule of law and justice to the wind. We saw houses and shops being demolished in Delhi's Jahangirpuri without legal sanction. Then, too, the apex court intervened. Such interventions deserve applause.

Prabhu Raj R.
Bengaluru

Fear in Joshimath

The people are paying the price for unhindered development ("Joshimath sinking: people panic, projects stopped," Jan. 6). The government is aware that these areas are fragile and ecologically sensitive; yet it did not put a stop to these projects all along. It must make proper arrangements for the residents now.

Sandeep Rawat
Chandigarh

To read more letters online, scan the QR code. Letters sent to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

People line up outside a fever clinic in Beijing. GETTY IMAGES

Zero-COVID policy to zero COVID policies

As the virus spreads through China's population, **Ananth Krishnan** reports on the timeline of how three years of stringent restrictions and checks suddenly gave way to an abrupt and messy end, leaving the healthcare system in chaos

On December 20, almost two weeks since China's sudden and unexpected scrapping of its stringent "zero-COVID" policy, the country officially reported a little over 3,000 COVID-19 cases. The real number of cases that day, estimated the National Health Commission (NHC) in an internal meeting, was closer to 37 million.

The commission, according to notes of an internal meeting that were subsequently leaked, estimated that in the first 20 days of December, China had seen roughly 250 million COVID cases – a remarkable speed of spread in a population with low immunity that had, for three years, been sheltered from COVID by a policy that had kept China isolated from a world that had, by then, come to live with the virus.

December – China's first post zero-COVID month – saw a hospital system completely overwhelmed, as well as a wave of deaths among elderly Chinese that has remained unrecorded, evident only in the long lines outside crematoria around the country. In Beijing and Shanghai, some families had to wait as long as 10 days to get a slot in a cremation ground.

If China had more than two years to prepare for lifting its COVID curbs, the end of zero-COVID came so suddenly and abruptly that hospitals and medical workers were left stunned. As recently as on the evening of November 30, the first clear sign of a shift in policy came when Vice Premier and "COVID czar" Sun Chunlan met NHC officials and declared that Omicron was no longer threatening because of its "decreased pathogenicity". Yet, officials in several Chinese cities, including Beijing, were even on that same day still scrambling to build more quarantine facilities, projects that were then suddenly halted.

Doctors in Beijing told *The Hindu* that hospitals didn't have time to even figure out how to deal with the influx of COVID patients and to separate them from those seeking other treatment. Some hurriedly set up makeshift fever clinics to ease the burden on emergency departments. Clinics saw long lines, because pharmacies in the city ran out of medicines within days of the policy being eased. They just had not been given time to stock up on supplies.

On December 1, authorities in Wuhan published a list of 42 fever clinics, but some closed shortly thereafter because the staff themselves became infected. Cross-infection in hospitals in Beijing and other cities spread rapidly, leading to other departments needing to close for disinfection.

The strain on ICU beds has been the biggest worry. As of November, China had 12 million people above the age of 80 who were yet to complete three doses of Chinese vaccines needed to prevent large-scale hospitalisation and death, and 80 million above the age of 60. This is a sizeable vulnerable group in a country that had, as of 2020, 3.6 ICU beds for every 1,00,000 people, with a majority of beds concentrated in bigger cities.

Only in September, China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had urged the government to carry out a vaccination booster campaign, describing it as a prerequisite for a safe exit strategy. That warning was not heeded.

Hospitals didn't have time to even figure out how to deal with the influx of COVID patients and to separate them from those seeking other treatment

Indeed, China's vaccination campaign, from the start, had been hampered by the zero-COVID model's focus on mass testing and quarantining of contacts, which consumed most medical resources. Contrary to popular perception, the problem was not with Chinese vaccines, which were shown to be very effective in Hong Kong after three doses in preventing hospitalisation and death. The problem was the vaccination strategy.

The vaccination campaign initially focused on the 18-59 working age population rather than the elderly. If the idea was to protect the labour force, the unintended consequence was a widespread impression that the government was not convinced about vaccine safety. And with no indication of an end to zero-COVID, the rational choice for many elderly, who saw little chance of getting infected in a country with closed borders and stringent testing, was to delay getting their shots.

The abrupt U-turn in November, with no planning and preparation, suggested only one thing: there never was an exit strategy from a model that worked well for China, but ended up becoming a victim of its own success.

The end of zero-COVID

For almost three years, China's zero-COVID model had insulated the country and its population from a virus that had swept the world and claimed millions of lives. Throughout 2020 and 2021, China was largely a COVID-free bubble. Schools in China remained open, factories hummed to supply the world, and domestic tourism boomed. China's external trade reached record figures in 2021.

In March 2022, Shanghai provided a warning sign of the increasing difficulties of maintaining zero-COVID in the face of new variants that were highly transmissible, even if less lethal, particularly for vaccinated individuals. Shanghai's COVID wave, the biggest in China since the pandemic began, had triggered a debate among Chinese health experts. Some in Shanghai advocated a shift away from zero-COVID, and the city initially avoided locking down and focused only on the elderly. Reports at the time suggested Beijing was angered by the softer approach and directly intervened, imposing a harsh two-month lockdown on the city. Tens of thousands of Shanghai residents were taken to central quarantine, while the separation of COVID-positive children from their parents triggered an outcry.

A medical worker administers an IV drip treatment for a patient at a clinic in Beijing. REUTERS

The Shanghai lockdown had brought out the first cracks in China's COVID response, but the message from Beijing at the time was unambiguous – there was to be no questioning of the zero-COVID approach, on which the Chinese Communist Party leadership had staked so much.

China's leaders were well aware that no country in the world had managed a transition to living with COVID without huge costs. These costs had been used to justify continuation of the zero-COVID approach. The question of continuing with it had also become intensely political, seen as a key achievement of the Party during President Xi Jinping's second term, which was to conclude in October at the once-in-five-years Party Congress.

Letting the virus rip through the country and reaching herd immunity as soon as possible appears to now be the government's thinking, with the hope that normalcy will return as cases subside by early 2023

The message from Beijing to all local governments was that there would be no relenting on zero-COVID especially until the Congress was held, so as to ensure a grand celebration of Xi's decade at the helm and a smooth transition for the start of his third term.

The Communist Party's official *People's Daily*, in the lead-up to the Congress, published three editorials on consecutive days, calling for "patience with current policies" and warning that "zero COVID must be adhered to". It slammed those who advocated for "lying flat" and living with the virus.

When Xi opened the Congress on October 16, he defended zero-COVID as the right choice for China that showed the government "put people's lives first". For months, Party media had criticised the West – particularly the U.S. – for its lax approach to COVID and the millions of deaths. That emphasis had led to its own narrative trap - moving away from the policy would be, for the Party, difficult to explain after three years of criticising countries that did so.

The problem for the leadership was that public tolerance for a policy that many initially supported was declining rapidly. As lockdowns grew harsher to control new variants, the broad expectation was that the conclusion of the Congress would herald an easing and China would finally catch up with the world. However, in 2022, faced with increasingly transmissible variants, China imposed more lockdowns than in the previous two years. Economic costs were rising. In July 2022, youth unemployment soared to a record 19.9%.

In an apparent nod to those public frustrations, the government announced, on November 11, 20 measures to ease restrictions once the all-important Congress had been concluded.

For local authorities, the new measures caused confusion; they called for a shortened period of quarantine, and secondary contacts did not need to be traced. Yet for all the emphasis on easing, the very first of those measures demanded "adhering unwaveringly to dynamic zero-COVID" and eliminating infections as soon as possible. Local governments, however, continued to lock down at will. With the expectations of a move away from zero-COVID after the Congress now belied, public frustration continued to swell.

The spark that lit the fire

On November 24, those frustrations turned to anger. That evening, news broke of a fire in an apartment complex in Urumqi, in the western Xinjiang region, that killed at least 10 people. Overnight, videos went viral of firetrucks trying to douse the fire by spraying from outside the gates of the compound. From that distance, as an anguished observer remarked in one video, the water barely touched the raging fire, leaving those inside, including children, to burn to death.

For millions similarly locked down in their apartments, the Urumqi tragedy touched a raw nerve. On the weekend of November 26, Shanghai residents gathered in the city's Urumqi Road, for a spontaneous memorial to those who died in the fire. The memorial turned into a protest, calling for an end to lockdowns.

Taking their cue from Shanghai, residents in cities across China began to similarly gather to pay tribute, an unprecedented movement that, for the first time in decades, saw a civil society outpouring in direct opposition to Beijing's policies.

In central Beijing, a crowd of more than 500 people gathered. "No more lockdowns, no more testing!" was the chant. The strongest voices came from the young. One college student at the Beijing protest said three years of COVID policies had "stolen our youth". Protests spread to more than 50 college campuses. In Tsinghua University, Xi's alma mater, students chanted, "We need democracy, rule of law, and freedom of expression!"

"We haven't seen scenes like this since 1989," a veteran Chinese journalist told *The Hindu*, referring to the Tiananmen Square protests that year.

In Nanjing Communications University in the east, students started a "blank paper" protest that spread around the country. By holding up white sheets of paper, they were making their voices heard while pointing out the restrictions they faced in speaking out.

In Nanjing, a university official with a megaphone warned protesters they "would pay one day for what they have done" and reminded them that the COVID measures were "state policy", according to one video. Undeterred, a student responded, "The state will also have to pay too for its actions."

Beijing's dilemma

The Communist Party was faced with a dilemma. As protests grew, so did cases around the country. By end-November, China was reporting close to 40,000 cases daily, the highest since the pandemic began.

Meanwhile, local officials were conveying two messages to Beijing: that the eased measures were not working to contain a highly transmissible virus, and harsh lockdowns would decimate an already wounded economy.

By the end of November, zero-COVID had crossed the point of no return with the surge in cases. As Dr Mike Ryan of the WHO observed, the surge in China actually led to the end of restrictions, not the other way around.

There were signs in Beijing that the test-and-trace model was near collapse. Key to the zero-COVID model was the system of pooled sampling that powered mass testing. The idea was that if a pooled sample turned a positive test, then those in the pool would be subsequently tested individually. This allowed for rapid testing on a wide scale, but only worked when most pooled samples were negative. By early December, every other pooled sample in Beijing was returning positive tests, posing enormous pressure to the test-and-trace regime. The numbers were so high that contact tracing also collapsed.

Bringing China back to "zero cases", at this point, would have required a national lockdown even harsher than the one in Shanghai. That possibility was not off the table – even until early December, cities from Beijing to Guangzhou were hurriedly building new makeshift quarantine centres. What likely changed Beijing's calculus was the protests, which posed a risk to the party but also gave it an opportunity, giving it the political space to climb down from its once non-negotiable position on zero-COVID.

The first sign of a climbdown came four days later, on November 30, when Sun, the Vice Premier, met the NHC and for the first time emphasised that the current variants were mild, a sharp contrast from consistent messaging highlighting COVID as life-threatening. Then, on December 7, came the final nail in the zero-COVID coffin with 10 sweeping measures that dismantled the key elements of the policy, from ending quarantine and disabling the "travel card" app that had been used, for three years, to track the location of every person.

The end, when it came, sparked a range of emotions in China: broad relief for many at the end of lockdowns and being sent to central quarantine, optimism of an economic recovery – but also anxiety in dealing with an entirely new situation with almost no preparation. A three-year policy that had governed every aspect of the lives of Chinese had been overturned. Testing was also stopped. The NHC thus no longer had an accurate measure of the spread, and official daily numbers were soon rendered meaningless.

Letting the virus rip through the country and reaching herd immunity as soon as possible appears to now be the government's thinking, with the hope that normalcy will return as cases subside by early 2023. The cost of that approach, with a sizeable unvaccinated population, is an extraordinary burden on the medical system. Hospitals, medical workers and the elderly have been left to deal with a flood of cases as China, almost overnight, went from a zero-COVID policy to what can only be described as zero COVID policies.

From Page One

SC to hear all petitions on same-sex marriage

The Bench asked the parties to submit common compilations of arguments and judgments they want to place before the court during arguments for speedy and efficient adjudication. It appointed advocates Arundhati Katju, for the petitioners, and advocate Kanu Agarwal, for the Union, as nodal counsel to coordinate the preparations for the court hearing.

One of the petitions filed by Supriya Chakraborty and Abhay Dang said the non-recognition of same-sex marriage amounted to discrimination that struck at the root of dignity and self-fulfilment of LGBTQ+ couples. A separate petition was also filed by Parth Phiroze Mehrotra and Uday Raj Anand. The court issued notice in a separate petition filed by Utkarsh Saxena and Ananya Kotia challenging the mandatory requirement to issue public notice and objection to marriage contemplated under the Special Marriage Act and the Foreign Marriage Act. They argued that the provisions expose same-sex couples to the risks of ostracism, persecution, and violence.

The petitioners had argued that the case was a sequel to the 2018 Constitution Bench judgment in the Navtej Johar case in which homosexuality was de-criminalised. The petitioners said the 1954 Act should be made gender-neutral.

BSF stops Kuki-Chin's entry to Mizoram

The BSF personnel are seen distributing biscuits to the refugees.

A senior government official said it was "not a case of push-back" and a BSF team stopped them on coming to know that a group was headed towards Mizoram. An official said the BSF had no instructions to let the refugees enter India and they returned on their own once explained that they would be treated as "illegal migrants", if they continued to stay put in the Indian territory.

The official said BSF doctors also provided medical assistance to a pregnant woman, part of the group, who went into labour on the border. "The women gave birth to a healthy baby with the assistance of BSF doctors; she returned to Bangladesh with the group the next day," said the official.

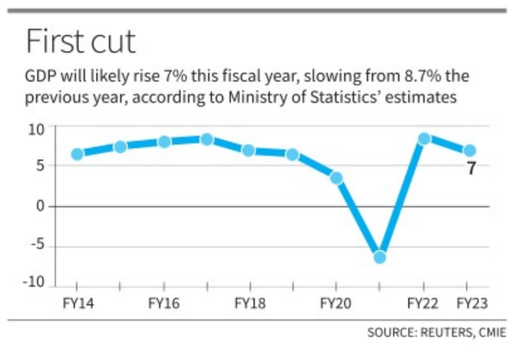
Mr. Vanlalvena said around 1,000 refugees were waiting to enter India.

Kuki-Chin, the Christian community from Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts, share close ethnic ties with people in Mizoram. The first tranche of around 300 refugees came in November 2022. The Mizoram government has approved setting up of temporary shelters for the community.

Mr. Vanlalvena said he had written to Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla to give necessary instructions to the BSF so that the displaced persons might be allowed to enter Mizoram. The January 4 letter stated that heavy fighting has erupted and is ongoing between Bangladesh Rifles troops and cadres of Kuki-Chin insurgent groups in Bangladesh. "Due to these clashes, the civilian tribal people of neighbouring Chittagong Hill Tracts who are our ethnic brothers and sisters have fled in large numbers into our State seeking refuge," the letter said.

India is not a signatory to the United Nations Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol and does not recognise refugees, and the undocumented migrants are liable to be prosecuted for violating the Foreigners Act.

India's GDP to grow 7% this fiscal, says NSO



Manufacturing and mining GVA are estimated to grow just 1.6% and 2.4% in 2022-23, compared with 9.9% and 11.5, respectively, last year.

Agriculture GVA is expected to accelerate to 3.5%, from 3%, but is only expected to rise 2.7% in the second half. "With sowing up 4.5% till December 30, improved fertilizer availability and healthy reservoir levels, we expect Rabi sowing this year to rise 1% to 2% in 2022-23, which would contribute to agricultural GVA growth of 3-4% in the second half," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at rating firm ICRA.

Construction sector's GVA is reckoned to grow 9.1% through the year, with electricity, gas, water and other utilities' GVA rising 9%. Financial, real estate and professional services' GVA is expected to grow 6.4% in 2022-23, from 4.2% in 2021-22.

GVA from public administration, defence and other services (which include health, education, recreation and other personal services) is expected to grow 7.9%, compared with 12.6% in 2021-22.

"All sectors, barring manufacturing, are expected to do well this year," said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis. "While consumption has grown 16%, this is mainly due to the inflation impact besides pent-up demand and is reflected in the GST collections," he added.

Dhami orders immediate evacuation of people from Joshimath 'danger zone'

Displaced residents of Uttarakhand town to receive assistance for six months; primary survey shows 603 buildings have developed deep cracks; Centre forms panel to study land subsidence

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand government on Friday announced its plan to evacuate all families living in the "danger zone" in Joshimath, also known as the gateway to the Badrinath temple, with immediate effect.

Apart from creating a temporary rehabilitation centre for the residents displaced due to the damage to their homes, the State government will also pay them ₹4,000 per month towards rent for the next six months.

With the Congress accusing the BJP government of neglecting the plight of residents for a long time, leading to the revered town left on the verge of "sinking", Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is expected to visit Joshimath to take stock of the situation.

During a review meeting at State capital Dehradun on Friday, the Chief Minister asked officials to ensure all arrangements for the rehabilitation of families affected by landslips in Joshimath town. Officials of the district administration briefed Mr. Dhami on the situation via videoconference.

"In this situation of crisis, there is a need to pay attention to the safety and security of life and property," Mr. Dhami said. He also directed officials to expedite the shifting of people living in the affected areas.

The administration has also been tasked with working on an immediate action plan and a long-term one to manage the situation. A National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team will be deployed on priority basis.

Rising panic: Cracks seen on a badminton court at Joshimath in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand on Friday. PTI

Rapid study

Taking cognisance of media reports, the Ministry of Jal Shakti on Friday constituted a committee to conduct a rapid study of the occurrence of land subsidence and its impact in the Joshimath region. In a statement, the Ministry said the committee would ascertain the cause and effects of landslips, and the measures to be taken to safeguard human settlements, buildings, highway infrastructure and the riverine system.

The committee will be made up of representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Central Water Commission, the Geological Survey of India, the National Mission for Clean Ganga, and the Uttarakhand State Programme Management Group.

A primary survey by the district administration shows that 603 buildings in Joshimath have developed deep cracks. As many as 44 families have been moved to rehabilitation camps, while over 60 families have vacated their homes on their own, sources said.

Caste-based survey of 12 crore people in Bihar begins today

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Nitish Kumar

The Bihar government is scheduled to start the first phase of a caste-based survey on Saturday.

All households in the State will be counted in the first phase, which will end on January 21.

In the second phase of the survey, which will be held from April 1 to April 30, information regarding people living in these households, their castes, sub-castes, socio-economic conditions and so on will be collected.

The survey, which aims to cover an estimated population of 12.7 crore, will end on May 31.

'Aiding development'

Speaking to mediapersons in Sheohar on Friday, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said: "The survey will be a detailed record on castes and communities in the State. It will help in their development."

On June 2, 2022, the State Cabinet approved the all-party demand for a caste-based survey in the State. The Bihar Legislative Assembly too had passed a unanimous resolution in favour of a caste-based survey. Later, leaders of all political parties, including the BJP, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to demand a caste-based census in the country. "When they [the BJP government at the Centre] ruled out the demand, we decided to do it on our own," he said.

Over five lakh surveyors will conduct the survey across 38 districts of the State.

"All the surveyors have earlier been given training on how to collect information, data and so on," Mr. Kumar said.

"Information will be taken even of those family members who are living outside the State. It will be a detailed survey on the profile of caste and communities in the State and that will help in their development," he added.

Strict regimen: An all-woman contingent of the CRPF rehearsing for the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Cadets from 19 nations join NCC R-Day camp

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Cadets and officers from 19 friendly countries are taking part in the 74th National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp, which began in New Delhi earlier this week, as part of the youth exchange programme, NCC Director-General Lt. Gen. Gurbirpal Singh said on Friday.

This is the largest participation of foreign cadets so far, he said. The participants are from the U.S., the U.K., Argentina, Brazil, Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Nepal, among other countries. A total of 2,155 cadets, including 710 girls, from all 28 States and eight Union Territories are also participating in the one-month-long camp.

Centre will adhere to timelines fixed by SC for judicial appointments: A-G

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani told the Supreme Court on Friday that the Union government will adhere to the timelines fixed by the court to process recommendations for judicial appointments.

The government's statement seems to be a step down from its earlier view that it was not a "post office" to clear Collegium recommendations.

The court had remarked in an earlier hearing that the government, miffed by the striking down of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) law in 2015, was deliberately delaying appointments and remaining incommunicado on Collegium recommendations.

"We cannot pick and choose if the judgment [NJAC] is aligned with the government's views and decide to enforce it or not. We enforce the law [Collegium system] as it exists. I have said if you want to bring in a better system, nothing prevents the legislature from doing it. But every system has its pluses and minuses. Nobody says this is a perfect system. Nor can a replacement system be perfect. Ultimately people operate these systems... The issue needs to be resolved. It is not a healthy situation... I will be out of the system in a year. My grave concern is are we creating an environment where meritorious people hesitate to give consent to offers of judgeships?" Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, heading a Bench comprising Justice A.S. Oka, asked the Attorney-General.

Justice Kaul said the government should not be guided by political affiliations, personal philosophy and cases in which an individual had appeared as a lawyer while considering names for judgeships.

Mr. Venkataramani agreed there had to be a "fusion between two different points of views" and friction should be avoided.

He said the government would be likely processing 44 names for High Court judgeships and forwarding them to the Supreme Court Collegium over the weekend. Various High Courts had forwarded to the government 104 names for judgeships. A 2021 judgment of the top court had given the timeline of a maximum 18 weeks for the government to process the names forwarded to the Law Ministry by the High Courts and send them to the Supreme Court Collegium for final approval.

Mr. Venkataramani, however, sought more time to "look into" the pending Collegium recommendations of five judges to the Supreme Court. "But these recommendations should not take time on your part to clear. They are Chief Justices and senior judges of the High Courts after all," Justice Kaul addressed the top law officer for the government.

17 J&K leaders from Azad's party rejoin Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Seventeen former leaders of Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Azad Party (DAP), including former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Tara Chand and former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, rejoined the Congress on Friday.

All the leaders had joined DAP after Mr. Azad quit the Congress in August last year and floated his regional outfit a month later. Two more DAP leaders would also be formally returning to their old party.

Welcoming the leaders back, AICC general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said the DAP leaders who rejoined the parent party had "never left the Congress" but were on on "a leave of two months".

Modi govt. ensured peace, progress in the Northeast: Shah

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/IMPHAL

One of the key promises of the BJP in 2017 was to free Manipur from periodic blockades

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Narendra Modi government at the Centre helped rid Manipur of curfews, blockades and extremism and ensure "three Ps" – peace, progress and prosperity – in adjoining Nagaland.

He made these observations at official functions after inaugurating a slew of projects and laying the foundations of a few others worth a total of ₹1,352 crore in the two northeastern States.

"Manipur is witnessing a new era of peace and progress after the BJP governments at the Centre and in Manipur curbed insurgency. Highway blockades, which were common earlier, have become a thing of the past," Mr. Shah said at Manipur capital Imphal, his first stop.

One of the key promises of the BJP ahead of the 2017 Assembly elections was to free Manipur from periodic blockades resulting in severe economic crisis.

Mr. Shah later visited the poll-bound Nagaland and inaugurated five projects worth ₹52 crore virtually from Chumoukedima near Dimapur, the State's commercial hub. He highlighted the Centre's "mainstreaming" initiatives for Nagaland and the seven other States in the Northeast. He added that the Central funds for Nagaland were increased four times in the last eight-and-a-half years.

Trinamool releases list of 52 candidates for Meghalaya

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Trinamool Congress on Friday released the first list of 52 candidates, including five women, for the Assembly election in Meghalaya expected in February.

Prominent among the candidates are former Chief Minister Mukul Sangma, his wife Dikkanchi D. Shira, their daughter Miani D. Shira and his younger brother Zenith M. Sangma. All are MLAs who won on Congress tickets in 2018.

"The names of candidates for the remaining eight seats will be announced soon," State Trinamool president Charles Pyngrope said in Shillong.

The Trinamool had a backdoor entry into the 60-member Meghalaya House when 12 of the 17 Congress MLAs crossed over in November 2021.

Naga groups accuse State BJP chief of stalling peace process

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Temjen Imna Along Longkumer

An umbrella organisation of seven Naga extremist groups has slammed the Nagaland unit of the BJP for trying to scuttle the Naga peace process.

The Working Committee of the Naga National Political Groups said State BJP president Temjen Imna Along Longkumer and his coterie were "greatly hampering" the progress and fruition of the 'Indo-Naga' political talks.

'Playing with fire'

The committee said the State BJP leaders have been "playing with fire" by going against their Central leadership that is "trying its best to find permanent peace" for Nagaland through a political settlement with various Naga extremist groups.

Mr. Longkumer apparently angered the committee by not giving its leaders an appointment sought on November 9 to discuss "crucial" matters.

The committee said Mr. Longkumer "has fiddled with Naga political issue and played every dirty trick in the book to thwart the progress of Indo-Naga talks".

It added that the "treacherous" State BJP leadership "has deeply eroded the Naga people's confidence".

All-woman team from India to keep peace in Sudan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

This will be country's largest single unit of women peacekeepers in a UN mission since 2007 in Liberia

India is set to deploy an all-woman platoon of peacekeepers as part of a battalion to the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (on the border between South Sudan and Sudan), which will be India's largest single unit of women peacekeepers in a UN mission since the deployment of the first-ever all woman contingent in Liberia in 2007, according to India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

India is one of the largest troop-contributing nations to the UN peacekeeping missions. "India has a tradition of active participation in U.N. peacekeeping missions. The participation by our Nari Shakti is even more gladdening," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Twitter.

The Indian contingent, comprising of two officers and 25 other ranks, will form part of an engagement platoon and specialise in community outreach, though they will be performing extensive security-related tasks as well, the Indian mission said in a statement. "Their presence will be especially welcome in Abyei, where a recent spurt in violence has triggered a spate of challenging humanitarian concerns for women and children in the conflict zone," the statement added.

The team will provide relief and assistance to women and children in one of the most challenging terrain conditions under the UN flag, the Indian Army said on social media.

Wells Fargo terminates employee after incident on Air India flight

Shankar Mishra, who had urinated on a co-passenger, remains untraceable; Delhi police issue look out circular and form four teams across three cities to find him; his last-known mobile phone location puts him in Bengaluru

Jagriti Chandra
Mini Tejaswi
Samridhi Tewari
BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

The Air India passenger, Shankar Mishra, who allegedly urinated on a co-traveller mid-flight in an inebriated condition, was on Friday sacked by his employer Wells Fargo. The accused, however, remains untraceable even as the Delhi Police have issued a look-out circular and deployed four teams across three cities to nab him.

"Wells Fargo holds employees to the highest standards of professional and personal behaviour and we find these allegations deeply disturbing. This individual has been terminated," the U.S. financial services company said in a statement. The statement didn't identify the official and the post held by him.

According to his LinkedIn profile that has since been deleted, Mr. Shankar was a vice-president at the company.

Though the mid-flight incident occurred on November 26, Air India neither handed over the passenger to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) after the flight landed nor filed a police complaint until December 28. Moreover, the matter was reported to the DGCA on January 4 after media glare when it announced that it had imposed an interim flying ban of 30 days on the errant passenger.

> Head of operations are advised to sensitise pilots, cabin crew on handling of unruly passenger through appropriate means
> **DGCA ADVISORY**

The Delhi Police are trying to track down the 34-year-old man from Mumbai, with an office in Bengaluru. They have also sought Mumbai Police's help.

The Delhi Police's IGI airport unit has formed four teams, two of which have been sent to Mumbai and Bengaluru and the other two are working in Delhi. Teams were sent to his residence in Mumbai's Kamgar Nagar in Kurla, but he wasn't found there. "His home was found to be locked and his family has not been cooperating with our investigation," an officer said. According to Mr. Mishra's technical surveillance analysis, his last location was found to be in Bengaluru but no further leads have been found yet, the officer added. They have also contacted his employer Wells Fargo to join the investigation at the earliest.

An officer said that the accused's lawyer informed him that there was a settlement between the accused and the senior citizen woman after the incident where the accused paid a small compensation of ₹15,000, but this was later returned by the family.

The Delhi Commission for Women, too, on Friday, issued notices to Delhi police, DGCA and Air India and sought an action taken report against the airline for their negligence in the matter by January 10.Mr. Mishra has been booked under sections pertaining to sexual harassment, outraging a woman's modesty and obscenity.

An FIR was registered on Wednesday.

In response to the Air India incident of November 26, and another incident on December 6 on a Paris-Delhi flight, the aviation safety regulator has issued an advisory to all airlines reinforcing the responsibilities of the pilots in ensuring safety of the passengers and aircraft, and of the crew in diffusing a situation and restraining the unruly passenger where necessary.

"Head of operations [of airlines] are advised to sensitise pilots, cabin crew and Director-in-flight Services on the topic of handling of unruly passenger through appropriate means under intimation to DGCA," reads the advisory.

Rajnath visits Indira Point, interacts with troops

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On the second day of his visit to Andaman and Nicobar islands, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday visited Indira Point, the southernmost tip of the country.

He took stock of the defence preparedness and encouraged the troops to continue protecting the national interests in the region, a Defence Ministry statement said.

The Minister was accompanied by Lt. Gen. Ajai Singh, Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN).

Indira Point is along the Great Channel, popularly referred to as the 'Six Degree Channel', which is a major shipping lane for international traffic.

"A strong presence of the armed forces equips India to better discharge its responsibility of being a net security provider in the region," the statement said.

Pilot killed as trainer flight crashes due to poor visibility

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

The pilot of a trainer aircraft was killed while a trainee pilot injured after it crashed in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district late on Thursday night.

Captain Vimal Kumar (50) from Patna was killed in the crash while trainee pilot Sonu Yadav (23), who sustained injuries, was admitted to the government-run Sanjay Gandhi Medical College hospital, said Rewa District Collector Manoj Pushp. The aircraft had taken off for a training sortie from Chorhatta airstrip and the crash happened some three km away from it, said Chorhatta Police station in-charge J.P. Patel.

Prima facie poor visibility due to fog was said to be the reason for the crash.

"Due to fog, the aircraft hit the dome of the temple and got tangled in the cables and then crashed. The deceased pilot is Vimal Kumar from Patna staying in Nirmal City of Rewa and the injured Sonu Kumar is from Jaipur. A probe has been ordered to find out how and why the incident occurred and the team has been asked to probe all the points and submit the report at the earliest. A technical team has also left Mumbai," said State Home Minister Narottam Mishra.

U.K. ship on permanent deployment in Indo-Pacific makes first port call in India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Strong friendship: The U.K. patrol vessel sailed to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Friday. TWITTER/@UKINDIA

The Royal Navy's offshore patrol vessel, *HMS Tamar*, sailed to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Friday as part of its permanent deployment in the Indo-Pacific. India is the first port of call for the ship and underlines the United Kingdom and India's intent to collaborate in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and wider Indo-Pacific, the U.K. High Commission said in a statement.

"Over the next five days, the ship and her crew will undertake capability demonstrations and maritime exercises with the Indian Navy," the statement said. *HMS Tamar* is one of two Royal Navy vessels on permanent deployment as set out in the U.K.'s Integrated Review.

"The work *HMS Tamar* and her crew are doing with allies, partners and friends across the Indo-Pacific is crucial. As threats to global peace and stability mount, the Royal Navy values deeply its relationship with the Indian Navy in a shared endeavour to confront those who challenge the rules-based system and ensure peace and prosperity on and from the sea," First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Ben Key, said.

Acting British High Commissioner to India, Christina Scott, said: "*HMS Tamar's* deployment is the U.K.'s Indo-Pacific tilt in action and its visit, further evidence of the importance we attach to defence and security relationship with India".

"It is imperative that it remains free and open to all in support of trade, shared security and values," she added.

RBI to issue green bonds in two parts

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The RBI on Friday said that the maiden Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) would be issued in two tranches of ₹8,000 crore each on January 25 and February 9. The proceeds will be deployed in projects which help in reducing the carbon intensity of the economy. The Centre will be issuing the SGrBs for mobilising resources for green infrastructure.

Prasar Bharati mulls own OTT platform

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Prasar Bharati, for which the Centre had approved the Broadcast Infrastructure Network Development (BIND) scheme of ₹2,539.61 crore, for the upgrade and expansion of broadcasting infrastructure till 2025-2026, is evaluating the possibility of coming up with an over-the-top (OTT) platform.

Under the BIND scheme, Prasar Bharati CEO Gaurav Dwivedi on Friday said, the 28 regional channels would become HD programme production capable.

The FM coverage is projected to increase from 58.83% to 66.29%. A 20-kW FM transmitter will also be installed atop a 300-metre tower in Rameswaram to cover an area of 30,000 sq.km. The Doordarshan Kendras in Vijayawada and Leh would be upgraded as 24-hour channels.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
ALLOTMENT OF OLD COTTAGES FOR RECONSTRUCTION AT TIRUMALA UNDER COTTAGE DONATION SCHEME
Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh is inviting applications from the aspirant donors for construction of new Rest Houses in place of 9(Nine) existing Old Cottages which are in dilapidated condition at Tirumala. All relevant details and documents can be downloaded from **www.tirumala.org**. The filled in applications should be dropped in the **sealed box kept in the Office of the Dy.Exe. Officer (Panchayat & Revenue), TTD Tirumala during working hours on working days w.e.f. 07.01.2023 (Date of publication of notification) till 03.00 PM on 06.02.2023. Sealed box will be opened at 04.00 PM on 06.02.2023 at the same premises**
ROC No. PR4/13950/Adv. No.335/ PRO/2023, Dated: 06.01.2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MALABAR CEMENTS LIMITED
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking), An ISO 9001 :2015, 14001:2015 Company
Walayar Post, Palakkad-678624-Kerala
Email : materials@malabarcements.com/ bulkmcl@malabarcements.com
TENDER NOTICE
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in for Online Submission of Bids for:
❖ E-tender for re-visit the proposal for setting of 0.3 MTPA Bulk cement Terminal and Allied handling and Logistic Hub at CPT complex for MALABAR CEMENTS LTD. ❖ Appointment of C and F agent for Kondotty, Malappuram ❖ Appointment of C and F agent for Pattambi, Palakkad District ❖ SUPPLY OF RECLAIMER SCARPER CHAIN PITCH ❖ SUPPLY OF GI CORRUGATD SHEET AND GI PLAIN. ❖ SUPPLY OF GI CORRUGATED SHEET. ❖ SUPPLY OF GI MOTOR 225KW, 415V 1000RPM SQUIRREL CAGE. ❖ SUPPLY OF FIRE CRETE AND WHYTHEAT K. ❖ SUPPLY OF FILTER BAG PULSE SE803. ❖ DISPOSAL OF OLD USED KILN SHELL AND USED WIRE ROPE. (Pls. Visit www.mstcindia.co.in)
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD
No. 55, Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street, Seshadripuram,BENGALURU-560 020. Ph.:080-23460085
No: KSDB/Commr/TD-DC&KC/PMAY-HFA/2022-23/572 Dated :28.12.2022
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM RE-TENDERS (IFT)
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
The Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) Bengaluru invites item rate tenders for **Construction of Houses including Infrastructure works for the Slum Development of Ranebennur Town (2nd Call) and Udupi City (3rd Call) under PMAY(U)-HFA Scheme** from the eligible class-1 registered KPWD/CPWD contractors.

Calendar of Events	
Time and Date of Pre Bid Conference	**12.01.2023**
Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders in Portal	**16.01.2023 upto 4.30 p.m.**
Time and Date of Opening of Tender Documents (Qualification Information)	**18.01.2023 at 4.30 p.m.**
Time and Date of Opening of Financial Bid	Time and Date will be Intimated for the eligible bidders
Place of Receiving and Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Technical Director Karnataka Slum Development Board #55, 1st Floor, Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020 Phone: +91 80 23564651, 23462436. Email id: tddharwadksdb@gmail.com Web Site https://karunadu.karnataka.gov.in/ksdb

If there are any changes to the above notification, it will be published in e-procurement portal only. Tender Documents, schedule, specifications are available on the website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Tender form fees & EMD details are available on the e-procurement portal. EMD and tender processing fees shall be paid using e-procurement payment modes only. Tender application must be accompanied by earnest money deposit specified for the works and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of tender date.
Sd/-Commissioner,
Karnataka Slum Development Board, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/JA/3933/2022-23

TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE No. AME-1 (Comp.)/OPRS (1)/2023-IT, dt. 06.01.2023
Tenders are invited from interested bidders for implementation of Online Passenger Reservation System (OPRS) & iTIMS software for TSRTC for a period of five years. Sealed bids should be submitted in the tender box in Mini-Conference Hall, TSRTC, Bus Bhavan, 1st floor "B" block, Mushirabad, Hyderabad from **10.30 hrs. to 14.00 hrs on 01.02.2023.** RFP with full details can be downloaded from **http://tsrtc.telangana.gov.in**
DIPR R.O. NO. : 1137-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23, DATE: 06-01-2023 Sd/- Chief Engineer (IT)

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT **e-Procurement Tender Notice**
e-Tenders are invited for supply of **"48,00,000 kgs of Sugar (S-30) through e-tenders"** for a period of 04 months to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** For further details contact phone numbers: **0877-2264079, 2264555**, FAX No: **0877-2264554.**
Roc.No.PR4/ 13950/Adv.No.334/PRO/2023, Dated:06-01-2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Government of Kerala
TENDER
FOREST & WILD LIFE DEPARTMENT
Window No:iprd 23/e 02 • Tender No.A2-3873/2022 • Divisional Forest Officer, Timber Sales Division, Perumbavoor, Mudikkal P.O-683547, Phone-0484-2522219 • E-auction of timber on 09/01,17/01,24/01,02/02,09/02,17/02&27/02/2023 from Chalakudy, veettoor, Mudickal, Chettikulam & Varapuzha depots of Timber sales division, Perumbavoor • PAC : 2 Crore.
Full details on Tender Advertisement apperaed above are exhibited before the Office from which the tender originates.For Details on all Tenders above please visit notice board.kerala.gov.in/tender.Please put in search the Window No for getting the advertisement of your choice. **R.O. No. 03/G2/2022/PRD.**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : Re T No.86/2022-23/SE/Q, Clear Water Transmission Main, Clear water Pumping main from Sump at Edackadu Market to Devagiri OHSR, Supply, errection and Commissioning CF Pump set in PORUVAZHY Panchayath, **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 16540+2978, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 27-01-2023, 02:00 pm, **Phone :** 04742745293.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1373-2022-23 PH Circle, Kollam

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Head Office, 12, THAMBUSAMYROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI-600010
Ph. No. (044) 26426773 Email id : tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157
Short e-TENDER NOTICE
No.: BS3/369/2023 Dated:06.01.2023
Short E-tender No. TNCSC/22-23/ ET-55
Online electronic tender for **"PURCHASE OF 200 LAKH NUMBERS OF FORTIFIED RBD PALMOLEIN OIL 1 LITRE POUCHES (910 gms)"**
Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/tncsc** and also available in **www.tenders.tn.gov.in**
The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III
For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED, Phone: 25222842 / 25251910 / 25261005 e-Mail: **mstcsro@mstcindia.co.in**
Last Date for Online Submission: upto 11.00 A.M on 23.01.2023.
DIPR/0146/Tender/2023 MANAGING DIRECTOR
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029
National Eligibility cum Entrance Test – Post Graduate (NEET - PG) 2023
NOTICE
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next NEET-PG on **5th March 2023**.
Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in for details pertaining to eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates	
Availability of Information Bulletin	7th January 2023 onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	7th January 2023 (3 PM Onwards) to 27th January 2023 (Till 11:55 PM)
Date of Examination	5th March 2023
Declaration of the Result	By 31st March 2023

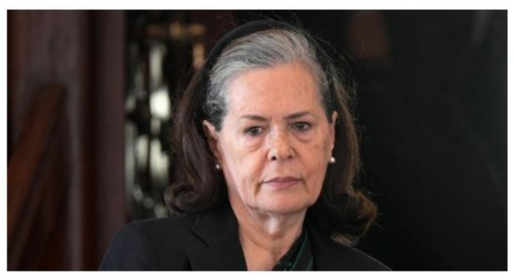
Candidate Care Support: +91-22-61087595
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029
FELLOWSHIP ENTRANCE TEST - 2022
NOTICE
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next Fellowship Entrance Test for Indian and International students on 10th February 2023.
Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in for eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates	
Availability of Information Bulletin	6th January 2023 Onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	6th January 2023 (3 PM Onwards) to 27th January 2023 (Till 11:55 PM)
Date of Examination	10th February 2023

Candidate Care Support: +91-22-61087595
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

INBRIEF



Sonia Gandhi is stable and recovering, says hospital

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi with a viral infection, is stable and recovering, the hospital said in a statement on Friday. "Ms. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of UPA, who is admitted at the hospital for a viral respiratory infection is stable and is making a gradual recovery," read the statement. On Wednesday, the 76-year-old Congress leader was accompanied by her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra when she was admitted to the hospital. Doctors attending on her said that she was being treated for a viral respiratory infection.

India to host summit of 'Global South' nations

In a bid to articulate the views of the developing countries regarding the effects of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, India will hold a major international summit on January 12 and 13. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said invitation letters had been sent to participants from "more than 120 countries". "This summit, which will be called the 'Voice of the Global South Summit' under the theme – 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose' – essentially envisages bringing together countries of the global south and share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform across a whole range of issues," said Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

Several Uddhav loyalists join Eknath Shinde camp

In a fresh jolt to the former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction ahead of the State civic polls, several party bearers and corporators from his faction defected to the Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena in Nashik on Friday. Later in the day, 30 corporators from the Uddhav camp as well as other parties, including the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), joined Mr. Shinde's Sena in presence of the CM himself in Parbhani. Downplaying the defections, Thackeray faction loyalist MP Sanjay Raut said the party bearers who had switched loyalties were "non-entities" and "disloyal brokers."

U.P. school serves defamation notice of ₹1 cr. to transwoman

Under investigation for firing transwoman teacher Jane Kaushik on grounds of her gender identity, a private school in Lakhimpur-Kheri of Uttar Pradesh has now sent a defamation notice to her, seeking ₹1 crore in damages and threatening to institute court proceedings if the amount is not paid. In the notice, which reached Ms. Kaushik on December 13, the school said she had conspired to defame the administration, which had resulted in damage to the school's image in civil society. Meanwhile, a four-member district-level committee has submitted a report to the National Commission for Women giving a clean chit to the school authorities over the issue.

Many lapses in approval of GM mustard, says forum

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Coalition for a GM-Free India, a platform that is fighting a case in the Supreme Court against the trials of genetically modified mustard, released a report here on Friday to showcase at least 15 instances of alleged regulatory lapses in the appraisal and approval of Delhi University's GM "Herbicide Tolerant or HT" mustard.

The platform alleged that the Centre is trying to mislead the court by maintaining that there are no regulatory lapses in the development of the GM mustard.

It said that without a formal approval letter being issued, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research jumped into the picture on behalf of a third party applicant to ensure that seeds are planted in "great haste".

The report said: "Indian government and regulators have clearly ignored and neglected the Supreme Court's Technical Expert Committee's science-based recommendation to ban HT crops in India."

SC directs committee to build a framework to ensure road safety

Urgent steps need to be taken to mould State-specific guidelines for electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety, says court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed its committee led by a former apex court judge, Justice A.M. Sapre, to meet with the Road Transport Secretary within two weeks and work out a framework to mould State-specific guidelines for the electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety. The court acknowledged that speeding was the main cause of fatal accidents on Indian roads.

A Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud agreed that urgent steps need to be taken to enforce Section 136A (electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The provision was introduced into the Act in 2019 to keep an electronic eye on errant drivers.

Additional Solicitor General Madhavi Divan, for the Union, said the government has already framed rules under subsection (2) of Section 136A. Section 136 (2) mandated the Centre to "make rules for the electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety including speed cameras, closed-circuit television cameras, speed guns, body wearable cameras, and such other technology".

Damage control: The court acknowledged that speeding was the main cause of fatal accidents on Indian roads. PTI

Senior advocate K.V. Jain, the counsel for petitioner Rajaseekharan, said Sections 215A and B provided the functions of electronic monitoring to the States and the formation of a National Road Safety Board in an advisory capacity. Moreover, road safety councils were to be set up at the national, State, and district levels.

The court directed Justice Sapre to hold a preliminary meeting preferably within two weeks and asked Amicus curiae Gaurav Agarwal to table a report on it.

Remote work helped in saving jobs during COVID: ILO report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The report looked at the two main aspects of working time; working hours and work schedules

Short-time work and work-sharing measures or other forms of job retention helped people reduce the volume of work and save jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, said a report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) released on Friday.

The report, titled 'Working Time and Work-Life Balance Around the World', said flexible working hours enabled individuals as well as companies, enterprises and industries to collectively reduce the hours of work, a trend already generated before the crisis. The crisis also created the possibility of increasing the hours of work for new economic bottleneck areas, such as in the healthcare or pharmaceutical industries.

Work-life balance

The system of reduced working hours and flexible working time arrangements can benefit economies, enterprises and workers, and lay the ground for a better and more healthy work-life balance, the report noted.

The report looked at the two main aspects of working time; working hours and working time arrangements (also called work schedules) and the effects of both on business performance and workers' work-life balance.

"More than one-third of all workers are regularly working more than 48 hours per week, while a fifth of the global workforce is working short (part-time) hours of less than 35 per week. Informal economy workers are more likely to have long or short hours," the ILO said.

"The so-called 'Great Resignation' phenomenon has placed work-life balance at the forefront of social and labour market issues in the post-pandemic world," said Jon Messenger, the lead author of the report.

Now, Santhals stake claim on Parasnath Hills; to launch stir

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Members of the tribe say the Centre has addressed the concerns of Jains but not theirs

A day after the Union government assured members of the Jain community that sanctity of their holy place, Sammed Shikharji on Parasnath hills in Jharkhand, will be maintained and there would be no move to promote the place as a "tourist place", members of the Santhal tribe in the State have staked claim to the hill as their *Marang Buru* (hill deity).

They have decided to launch protests in five States asserting their right to the hill on January 17.

"The Centre and the State governments may have addressed the demand of Jain community to maintain religious sanctity of Parasnath hills but they should also know that, before them we, the members of Santhal community, had been worshipping the Hill as our *Marang Buru*. We also demand the right to worship *Buru* and on January 17, will protest peacefully in five States to put forth our demand to the Prime Minister and President of the country through respective District Magistrates and Deputy Commissioners," Salkahn Murmu, ex-MP and president of Santhal organisation Adivasi Sengel Abhiyan, told *The Hindu* over phone.

"If the governments fail to consider our demand, one crore Santhal tribal members would protest in 50 districts on January 17," Mr. Murmu said, adding, "The Jains have illegally grabbed the place, the biggest pilgrimage site of Santhals and we have all the records. We will also call for Bharat bandh if our issues are not addressed."

Rajasthan's 'tree teacher' has blazed a trail of green

Through his concept of family forestry, Bheraram Bhakhar has worked towards preventing desertification in western Rajasthan for 24 years

Mohammed Iqbal
JAIPUR

In a rare feat, a primary school teacher in Barmer district of Rajasthan has achieved a record in the family forestry campaign by planting four lakh trees and connecting 1.2 lakh people with his drive during the last 24 years. Fondly called "tree teacher", Bheraram Bhakhar, 43, has sought to prevent desertification in western Rajasthan through his diligent work.

Mr. Bhakhar, who turned into an environmentalist at a young age, has been instrumental in increasing the green cover in the region and has taken out several *yatras* to create awareness on environment protection and family forestry.

Posted at the Government Senior Secondary School at Indroi village in Barmer, Mr. Bhakhar has developed his nursery from where he has been distributing saplings of desert plants with the support of the public at large.

On a mission: Bheraram Bhakhar during his campaign for tree plantation in Barmer district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Bhakhar told *The Hindu* that he had been spending his one month's salary every year on tree plantation since 2002 and gifting saplings to his friends, colleagues, students and relatives.

Through his *yatras* on motorcycle during the school vacation every year, Mr. Bhakhar said he had travelled to several districts in Rajasthan and touched States such as Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, covering a distance of 25,000 km in the last two decades.

SC halts order staying border pact of Assam, Meghalaya

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed a decision of a Single Bench of the Meghalaya High Court to put on hold a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) demarcating the boundaries between Assam and Meghalaya to settle border disputes in six areas.

The MoU was signed between Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad K. Sangma on March 29 last year.

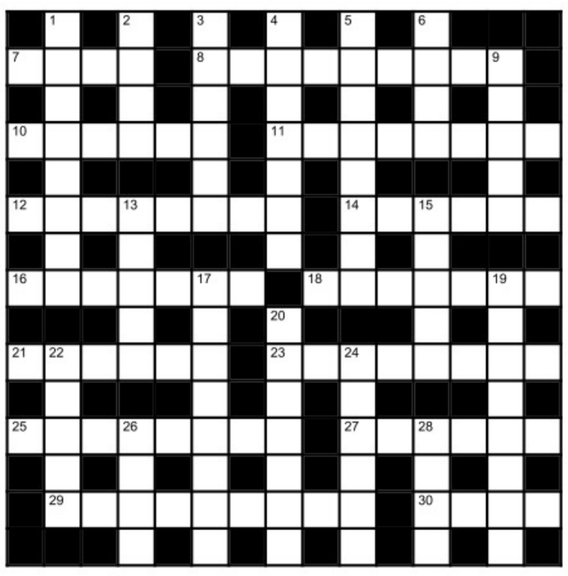
"Whether the MoU... would require any further authorisation of Parliament is a distinct issue which we would reserve for further consideration. However, we are of the considered opinion that an interim order effectively staying the implementation of the MoU between the Chief Ministers of the two States was not warranted," the court ordered.

TH CROSSWORD + 13757

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Legendary creature and alien kept in Yankee igloo at first (4)
8 Perhaps how the artist shoplifting in the paint shop was caught? (3-6)
10 Drink with German spice (6)
11 Animals follow tailless mammal producing sugary substance (8)
12 Awfully silent before starting to install network for wire-tap (6,2)
14 Nag residing in O'Hara's stable (6)
16 Dirty relative with a pole (7)
18 Send criminal with evidence (7)
21 Prohibit initially rebellious English living in container (6)
23 Regal Scotsman includes joke on imaginary number (8)
25 As fast as a gastropod... or a bullet? (8)
27 Royal seat flung on radio (6)
29 Princess's fee for release (9)
30 Band of cloth strapped around soft hat in the beginning (4)

Down

1 51 Romans enter province creating organised faith (8)
2 Call for some jewellery (4)
3 Doctor at Yard takes broken urn for rehearsal (3,3)
4 Stubborn soldier follows first man (7)
5 Oh boy! All running hither and thither in commotion (8)
6 Dad jumps around with son's tots (4)
9 Garment from doctor on English ship (5)
13 Construction worker mentioned in mercantile records (5)
15 Takes a break on street at end of class (5)
17 Nothing left, okay? (3,5)
19 Actor Alec's genius is misrepresented around new school (8)
20 For starters, American military policeman has old relic and jug (7)
22 Top class student editor was sick (5)
24 Jedi endlessly hugged extra-terrestrial model and flew around at high speeds (6)
26 Cut girl on tree (4)
28 At heart, Parashar is impetuous (4)

SUDOKU

1		2				6		
					2			9
				9			8	
	6	3			1			2
2			4		3			5
5			6			4	9	
	3			8				
9			3					
		4				9		1

No.SS5672 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

M	A	R	O	C	A	I	N		C	A	N	N	E	S
E		A		L		M		F		D		Y		A
A	N	T	W	E	R	P		A	B	D	O	M	E	N
G		T		A		E		I		L		P		D
R	U	L	E	R		R	A	R	E	E	S	H	O	W
E		E		A		I		T				E		I
				A	N	T	A	G	O	N	I	S	T	I	C
S		C		C		L		M		N		S		H
P	O	L	T	E	R	G	E	I	S	T	S			
E		E				A		D		E		W		C
C	U	R	T	A	I	L	E	D		R	E	A	C	H
I		I		L		L		L		A		R		A
M	E	C	C	A	N	O		I	S	L	A	M	I	C
E		A		M		N		N		I		T		H
N	E	L	S	O	N		A	G	R	A	P	H	I	A

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	9	8	1	7	4	6	3
4	3	7	9	2	6	1	5	8
6	8	1	5	3	4	7	2	9
1	5	4	3	8	9	2	7	6
8	7	6	4	5	2	9	3	1
2	9	3	7	6	1	5	8	4
7	1	8	6	9	5	3	4	2
3	4	2	1	7	8	6	9	5
9	6	5	2	4	3	8	1	7

FAITH

Journey of self-realisation

It is human nature to seek things in life. Different people need different things, It could be a quest for wealth, a push for power or a thirst for knowledge. However, at some point of time, every thinking person would have thought, "Who am I?", before proceeding with the grind of daily life, but a few embark on a lifelong journey of self-discovery and become a guiding light for lakhs of people. One such person is Sri Ramana Maharishi, hailed as Kali Yuga bhagawan by many, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.

An epitome of gnana margam, Ramana Maharishi was born in an ordinary family in Thiruchuzhi on December 30, 1879 (Tiruvadhirai star, in the Tamil month of Margazhi) but his birth was extraordinary. It is said that there was none but a blind old woman to help in the birthing and when the new born opened his eyes he looked straight at the old woman who saw a flash of white light and gained her eyesight.

Growing up, he showed no other promise and was, in fact, an average student. A chance mention of the word Tiruvannamalai when he was 16, and a subsequent vision of death, turned him towards a life of self-quest: Who am I? What is atma, what is death?

Renouncing family and friends, he left for Tiruvannamalai. As he neared the temple town, his whole being rejoiced when he espied the hallowed Arunachaleswar Temple. Attaining mukti there, he spent the rest of his life there, rendering discourses or answering the numerous questions posed by his devotees at his dwelling, the Ramanashram.

YANGON

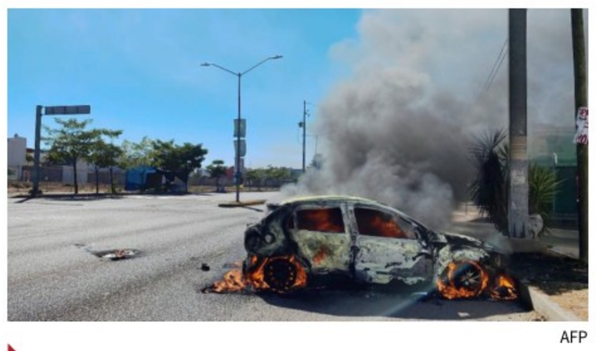
Myanmar military holds election discussions with ethnic rebels

AFP

Myanmar's junta is holding talks with three ethnic rebel groups on staging elections in areas they control, a rebel spokesman said. The country has about 20 ethnic rebel armies that have fought each other and the military for decades over autonomy and control of the drugs trade and natural resources in its borderlands. AFP

MEXICO CITY

29 people killed in operation to arrest drug kingpin's son in Mexico



AFP

Ten soldiers and 19 criminal suspects were killed in the operation to arrest Ovidio Guzman, son of jailed drug trafficker Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the Mexican government said. Ovidio Guzman, also called"El Raton" (The Mouse), allegedly helped run his father's operations since El Chapo was extradited to the U.S. in 2017. AFP

LONDON

U.K. government invites unions to summit talks as strikes spread

AP

U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Friday urged public-sector unions to hold talks with the government next week as a wave of strikes hits hospitals, railways and other critical areas. Government departments have written to union leaders representing striking workers to invite them to meetings on Monday, he said. AFP

CHIAYI

Taiwan's Tsai visits military base as China protests U.S. ship passage

AP

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen visited a military base on Friday to observe drills while rival China protested the passage of a U.S. Navy destroyer through the Taiwan Strait, as tensions between the sides showed no sign of abating. Her visit comes as Taiwan seeks to boost its defences against the rising threat from China. AP

Signs of fighting after Russia says truce comes into force in Ukraine

Moscow said troops began observing the ceasefire from noon 'along the entire line of contact' but claimed Ukraine kept up shelling Russian-populated areas; Kyiv calls the Russian move a ploy to rearm their forces on the frontline

Reuters
KYIV/KRAMATORSK

A unilateral ceasefire in Ukraine declared by Russian President Vladimir Putin was due to come into force on Friday but the hours leading up to the temporary truce saw renewed fighting, with Kyiv rejecting the move as a trick.

Moving on: A local resident pushes his bicycle past the rubble, down a street in Bakhmut in Donetsk region on Friday. AFP

Rocket attack

Russia's Defence Ministry said its troops began observing the ceasefire from noon Moscow time "along the entire line of contact" in the conflict but said Ukraine kept up shelling Russian-populated areas and military positions.

In the hours prior, rockets slammed into a residential building in the Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk close to the eastern frontline, damaging 14 homes but with no casualties, the Mayor said. Residents described several explosions.

Shortly after the ceasefire was supposed to come into effect, Russian-backed officials accused Ukraine of shelling the regional capital of Donetsk with artillery, Russia's state-run TASS news agency said.

Mr. Putin ordered the 36-hour ceasefire in the 10-month-long war in a surprise move on Thursday, saying it would run through to the end of Russian Orthodox Christmas on Saturday.

Heavy losses

But Ukraine and its Western allies dismissed his call, calling it a ploy aimed at giving Moscow time to reinforce troops and equipment after heavy losses in the industrial Donetsk region where Kramatorsk is located.

Despite air raid warnings sounding in several regions, no major air strikes were reported by Ukrainian officials after the ceasefire starting time.

One rescue worker was killed and four others injured after Russian forces shelled a fire department in the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson before the deadline early on Friday, the regional Governor said

The battles had not previously slowed during the festive season and Russia mounted air strikes over New Year, usually a time of celebration in both Ukraine and Russia.

Meanwhile, Germany announced it will supply Ukraine with about 40 Marder infantry fighting vehicles within weeks as part of a new phase of support coordinated with the U.S.

McCarthy nears victory in the race for U.S. House Speaker as he flips rebels

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Republican Kevin McCarthy flipped several colleagues to support him in dramatic votes on Friday for U.S. House Speaker, a major sign of progress for the embattled leader on the fourth day and 12th ballot of a gruelling stand-off that is testing American democracy.

The changed votes from the conservative holdouts including the chairman of the conservative Freedom Caucus put Mr. McCarthy closer to seizing the gavel. The stunning turnaround came after Mr. McCarthy agreed to many of the detractors' demands – including the reinstatement of a longstanding House rule that would allow any single member to call a vote to oust him from office.

Kevin McCarthy

The showdown that has stymied the new Congress came against the backdrop of the second anniversary of the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

For a few minutes in the House chamber, Republicans tiring of the spectacle walked out in protest when one of Mr. McCarthy's most ardent challengers railed against him.

Failed votes

Contours of a deal with conservative holdouts who have been blocking Mr. McCarthy's rise emerged, but was still out of reach after three dismal days and 11 failed votes in a political spectacle unseen in a century.

Arriving at the Capitol Friday morning, an upbeat McCarthy said to reporters, "We're going to make progress. We're going to shock you."

But there's no deal yet, he told colleagues on a private morning call, according to a Republican familiar with the call and granted anonymity to discuss it.

China seeks to minimise COVID risk during travel rush for Lunar New Year

Associated Press
BEIJING

China is seeking to minimise the possibility of a major new COVID-19 outbreak during this month's Lunar New Year travel rush following the end of most pandemic containment measures.

The Transportation Ministry on Friday called on travellers to reduce trips and gatherings, particularly if they involve elderly people, pregnant women, small children and those with underlying conditions.

People using public transport are also urged to wear masks and pay special attention to their health and personal hygiene, Vice Minister Xu Chengguang said.

Swelling cases: The Chinese government's new advisory stopped short of asking people to stay at home entirely. AP

The call stopped short of asking citizens to stay home entirely.

Mr. Xu said authorities expect more than 2 billion trips to be made during the week-long festival season, the most important time for visiting family and friends in the traditional Chinese calendar.

These figures are nearly double the number of last year and 70.3% over the same period in 2019 before the pandemic hit, Mr. Xu said.

Biden moots new law for people from across border

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Thursday that the U.S. would immediately begin turning away Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans who cross the border from Mexico illegally, his boldest move yet to confront the arrivals of migrants that have spiraled since he took office two years ago.

The new rules expand on an existing effort to stop Venezuelans attempting to enter the U.S., which began in October and led to a dramatic drop in Venezuelans coming to the border.

The U.S. will accept 30,000 people per month from the four nations for two years and offer the ability to work legally, as long as they come legally.

THE HINDU GROUP

Sing songs of praise and get praised.

Mellifluous ragas and vibrant padams fill the air during Marghazhi, the season of melodies. Join the festive fervour by registering for *The Hindu Marghazhi Music Contest*. Prove your devotion to classical Indian vocal or instrumental music on this dream platform to take home certificates of achievement and exciting gift vouchers.

THE HINDU Margazhi Music Contest

THE HINDU

To register, log in to **https:/bit.ly/THMMC22** or scan the QR code.
Mail us at **events@thehindu.co.in** to know more.

Israeli and Palestinian envoys trade barbs at UN over Al-Aqsa visit

Agence France-Presse
UNITED NATIONS

Israeli and Palestinian envoys to the UN on Thursday traded heated barbs at a Security Council meeting over the controversial visit by an Israeli minister to Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound.

Israel's ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, called the session "pathetic" and "absurd" while the Palestinian envoy accused the Jewish state of acting "with absolute contempt."

The 15-member Council discussed the visit, which has enraged Palestinians, at UN headquarters in New York following a request by the UAE and China.

Israel's permanent representative to the world body, Gilad Erdan, told reporters there was "absolutely no reason" for the meeting to be held.

Tuesday's visit by Israel's National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, sparked a wave of condemnation, including from the U.S., an ally of Israel.

Pakistan's imports at stake as forex reserves touch an eight-year low

Agence France-Presse
KARACHI

Pakistan's central bank forex reserves have plunged to an eight-year low of $5.6 billion, posing a serious challenge for the country in financing imports.

Coupled with another $5.8 billion held by commercial banks, the nation has $11.4 billion in reserves – enough to pay for just three weeks of imports, traders and economists say.

"This is a very grave situation. If things get worse, Pakistan will need to have its loans restructured," said Mohammad Sohail, the head of economic watchdog Topline Securities in Karachi, alluding to a possible default by the country.

Pakistan's economy has crumbled alongside a simmering political crisis, with the rupee plummeting and inflation at decades-high levels, but devastating floods and a global energy crisis have piled on further pressure.

INBRIEF

Finished steel exports halved in April-December: govt. data

India's exports of finished steel more than halved during the first nine months of the fiscal year that began in April 2022, according to the latest government data seen by Reuters. The exports fell 54.1% to 4.74 million tonnes between April and December, as consumption dropped in major global markets, and mills struggled to revive shipments after the recent withdrawal of an export tax. In May, New Delhi raised export tax by 15% on eight steel intermediates. REUTERS

Mercedes-Benz India eyes double-digit growth in 2023

Mercedes-Benz India said it would focus on the top end of the luxury car market in 2023. The company also announced plans to introduce 10 new products in 2023. The carmaker on Friday introduced Mercedes-AMG E 53 4MATIC+ Cabriolet. "We are targeting double-digit growth in 2023 and want to surpass the sales achieved in 2022," said Santosh Iyer, MD and CEO. In 2022 the firm sold 15,822 units registering 41% growth compared with the previous year.

Skoda Auto aims at 1 lakh units in India sales by 2025

Skoda Auto India said it will target double-digit growth in 2023 and is on the path to achieving a sales volume of one lakh units by 2025. Sales more than doubled to 53,721 units in 2022, the company said. For 2023, the car manufacturer plans a slew of product actions and network expansion to achieve the projected growth. "For 2023, we shall build our path toward accelerating growth and deepen our strategic focus on widening the portfolio with both ICE and EVs," said Petr Šolc, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India.

Taming inflation is top priority for South Asian nations, says RBI's Das

Risks to growth and investment outlook could rise if price pressures persist at high levels, says Indian central bank chief; IMF's Sayeh says India in a relative 'bright spot globally, needs to replicate its services exports success in manufacturing

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Taming inflation is the top priority for South Asian countries as risks to growth and investment outlook could rise if price pressures persist at high levels, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday.

Speaking at an event organised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the RBI chief said policy challenges in the region have sharpened due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

Cause and effect: Policy challenges in the South Asian region have sharpened due to COVID-19 and Ukraine war, says Das. PTI

"While the recent softening of commodity prices and supply chain bottlenecks should help in lowering inflation going ahead, risks to growth and investment outlook may rise if inflation persists at high levels," Mr. Das said.

"Prioritising price stability may therefore be the optimal policy choice... in the current context."

Fuel, food inflation

Mr. Das said the region's heavy dependence on imported fossil fuels had made it vulnerable to fuel inflation while food inflation had averaged more than 20% during the first three quarters of 2022.

"For successful disinflation, credible monetary policy actions accompanied by targeted supply side interventions, fiscal, trade policy and administrative measures have become the key instruments," he added.

Apart from inflation, Mr. Das said reducing external debt vulnerabilities, focussing on high productive sectors, strengthening energy security, cooperation on greener economy and boosting tourism were key regional focus areas.

Earlier, IMF Deputy Managing Director Antoinette Sayeh said India was in a relative "bright spot" in the global economy, but needed to leverage its strength in services exports and extend it to job-rich manufacturing exports.

'Oil firms log ₹10/litre profit on petrol, ₹6.5 loss on diesel'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Oil companies are selling petrol at a profit of ₹10 per litre but retail prices haven't been reduced as they have to recoup past losses and make up for a ₹6.5-a-litre loss on diesel, as per a ICICI Securities report.

ICICI Securities said that IOC may end up with a net loss of ₹1,300 crore while HPCL may post ₹600 crore loss during the October-December quarter.

But, BPCL may break even, the firm added.

Farm reforms incomplete, MSP distorts choice: Debroy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To transform agriculture, farmers must be freed from state intervention, says PM-EAC Chair

Farm sector reforms were still incomplete in the country, according to Bibek Debroy, chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. Mr. Debory said the Minimum Support Price (MSP) was not supposed to be a procurement price but at present, the MSP was tantamount to the procurement price.

Inaugurating the *Businessline* agri-business and commodities summit 'Turbocharging the Agri-Biz and Commodities Sector' on Friday, Mr. Debroy said the moment the country "has a procurement policy, it distorts choice".

"Are farmers not entrepreneurial enough? By definition, an entrepreneur is a risk-taker. A farmer is much more entrepreneurial than many corporate houses, because farmers take risks all the time," he said, adding what the farmer should be protected from is unwarranted state intervention. "If you free the farmer from that intervention, Indian agriculture can be transformed."

Mr. Debroy said India would not be able to reform agriculture until it had 'modern land systems and... land records'. He said China reformed agriculture in the first phase of reforms in 1978-79. "By and large, the output side, input side, and marketing side is controlled. Therefore, that reform agenda for agriculture has not only been [pending] since 1991, it is pending even today."

U.S. job growth stayed solid in December

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The U.S. economy maintained a strong pace of job growth in December, with the unemployment rate falling to 3.5%, but higher borrowing costs as the Federal Reserve fights inflation could see the labour market momentum slowing significantly by mid-year.

Nonfarm payrolls increased 2,23,000 last month, the Labor Department said on Friday. The unemployment rate slid to 3.5%, from 3.6% in Nov.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,900	-0.75
US Dollar	82.66	-0.25
Gold	55,650	-0.61
Brent oil	80.01	1.79

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3824.25	-5.55
Adani Ports	806.10	-13.50
Apollo Hosp	4387.45	-41.60
Asian Paints	2978.40	-25.95
Axis Bank	939.90	-9.65
Bajaj Auto	3642.25	21.10
Bajaj Finserv	1430.35	-38.50
Bajaj Finance	5980.40	-119.65
Bharti Airtel	796.00	-11.10
BPCL	344.70	2.35
Britannia Ind	4359.05	45.85
Cipla	1076.35	-12.00
Coal India	214.25	-3.90
Divis Lab	3434.90	-26.95
Dr Reddys Lab	4271.75	-25.75
Eicher Motors	3250.60	-7.10
Grasim Ind	1680.60	-17.70
HCL Tech	1032.80	-11.30
HDFC	2596.00	-25.60
HDFC Bank	1594.40	-5.30
HDFC Life	611.65	2.20
Hero MotoCorp	2742.55	-24.60
Hindalco	462.65	-3.05
Hind Unilever	2576.45	-7.25
ICICI Bank	870.10	-9.05
IndusInd Bank	1181.90	-33.95
Infosys	1448.50	-26.70
ITC	335.05	1.60
JSW Steel	728.35	-22.35
Kotak Bank	1786.80	-33.50
L&T	2086.55	-0.80
M&M	1264.90	12.25
Maruti Suzuki	8383.05	-78.05
NestleIndia	19885.25	109.25
NTPC	169.00	-0.90
ONGC	147.35	0.85
PowerGrid Corp	208.10	-0.70
Reliance Ind	2536.90	22.85
SBI Life	1269.05	1.40
State Bank	600.65	-4.45
Sun Pharma	1008.70	-7.50
TataConsumerProduct	761.35	-2.50
Tata Motors	382.00	-4.90
Tata Steel	115.65	-0.90
TCS	3211.55	-99.55
Tech Mahindra	986.15	-25.50
Titan	2538.10	-24.00
UltraTech Cement	6982.20	-24.80
UPL	718.15	-2.15
Wipro	382.00	-4.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.52	82.84
Euro	86.76	87.10
British Pound	97.89	98.27
Japanese Yen (100)	61.45	61.69
Chinese Yuan	12.02	12.07
Swiss Franc	87.85	88.19
Singapore Dollar	61.27	61.52
Canadian Dollar	60.58	60.82
Malaysian Ringitt	18.73	18.82
Australian Dollar	55.64	55.86

Source:Indian Bank

Sport

Bishwamitra showcases his class, nails 51kg gold

NATIONAL BOXING

Y.B. Sarangi
HISAR

World youth bronze medallist Bishwamitra Chongtham exhibited his gifted game to beat another up-and-coming talent Zoram Muana in the 51kg final and win his maiden title in the National boxing championships on the Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University campus here on Friday.

Bishwamitra's fine showing helped him record a 5-0 win over his rival from Mizoram and celebrate his 19th birthday a day in advance.

Related to legendary woman boxer Sarita Devi, the diminutive Bishwamitra, hailing from Manipur and representing Services, relied on his smooth footwork and superb ring craft to move in and out of an attacking Zoram's grasp and land some well-directed punches.

Zoram, a product of the Sports Authority of India's Aizawl centre, executed some impressive combinations before bowing out with his head held high. He was adjudged the 'Best Challenger.'

"It's good to get the gold on my debut. The level of competition at an elite event is higher. I learned a lot," said Bishwamitra.

Double Commonwealth Games medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin carried on his fine form to ward off taller Sachin Siwach's strong challenge in a highly physical duel and regain the 57kg gold medal. It was Hussamuddin's third National title.

Podium finishers: The 51kg gold medallist Bishwamitra, second left, silver winner Muana, left, and bronze winners Amarjeet, second right, and Aarif, right. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Punjab boxer Kartik (86kg) gave a power-packed performance to take the 86kg gold. He became the 'Best Boxer.'

Sachin Siwach Junior (54kg), who returned to action following an appendicitis surgery, also secured his first gold medal.

Local lad Abhimanyu Loura, the 80kg champion, was named the 'Most Promising Boxer.'

Services won the team title. It was followed by Railways and Punjab.

The results (finals):

48kg: Govind Sahani (RSPB) bt K. Sanjit Singh (Man) 5-0; **51kg:** Bishwamitra Chongtham (SSCB) bt Zoram Muana (Miz) 5-0; **54kg:** Sachin Siwach Jr (SSCB) bt Rajpinder Singh (Pun) 5-0; **57kg:** Mohammad Hussamuddin (SSCB) bt Sachin Siwach (RSPB) 4-1; **60kg:** Varinder Singh (RSPB) bt Vijay Kumar (Pun) 5-0;

63.5kg: Shiva Thapa (Asm) bt Ankit Narwal (RSPB) 5-0; **67kg:** Akash Sangwan (SSCB) bt Abinash Jamwal (HP) 4-1; **71kg:** Nishant Dev (Kar) w.o. Hemant Yadav (Del); **75kg:** Sumit Kundu (SSCB) bt Nikhel Premnath (Mah) 5-0; **80kg:** Abhimanyu Loura (Har) bt Sahil (Chd) 4-1; **86kg:** Kartik (Pun) bt Harsh Choudhary (Raj) 5-0; **92kg:** Naveen Kumar (Har) bt Sanjeet (SSCB) 4-1; **+92kg:** Narender Berwal (SSCB) w.o. Sagar Ahlawat (RSPB).

It's Philosophy vs. Victoria Punch in Bangalore Oaks

BENGALURU: Philosophy and Victoria Punch may fight out the finish of the Wolf777 Bangalore Oaks (2,400m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Jan. 7). False rails (width about 4m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 INDIRA SAGAR PLATE (DIV. II), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 6-y-o & over, 1-45 p.m.: 1. Tiger Returns (7) Rayan 60, 2. Ultimate Striker (2) G. Vivek 60, 3. Smile Around (5) M. Chandrashekar 59.5, 4. Air Blast (4) A. Imran 58.5, 5. Silver Swift (8) Indrajeet S 57.5, 6. Gold Gray (6) Sai Kiran 57, 7. Anne Boleyn (1) Tousif 56 and 8. Jersey Legend (3) L.A. Rozario 56.

1. ULTIMATE STRIKER, 2. AIR BLAST, 3. ANNE BOLEYN

2 SARDAR SAROVAR PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 2-15: 1. The Golden Dream (4) M. Chandrashekar 60, 2. Scarlet Ibis (5) R. Pradeep 58, 3. Capriati (6) Antony 57, 4. Beldona (10) Sai Kiran 56.5, 5. Impiana (9) L.A. Rozario 56.5, 6. Southernaristocrat (1) Indrajeet S 56, 7. Emma (3) Vaibhav 55.5, 8. Fair Counsel (8) G. Vivek 55.5, 9. The Sound Of Music (2) Vivek 54.5 and 10. Baroness (7) Kiran Rai 54.

1. CAPRIATI, 2. EMMA, 3. IMPIANA

3 MASTER KEY PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-45: 1. Invincible (7) Suraj 56, 2. Stellantis (3) Trevor 56, 3. Superhero (1) Tousif 56, 4. The Gallery Time (8) R. Pradeep 56, 5. The Welcome (4) Vivek 56, 6. Crosswater (6) Antony 54.5, 7. Seeking The Stars (2) Zervan 54.5 and 8. The Blissfulelysee (5) Sai Kiran 54.5.

1. INVINCIBLE, 2. STELLANTIS, 3. CROSSWATER

4 DHARMAPRAKASHA L.S. VENKAJI RAO MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 3-15: 1. Artemis Ignacia (8) Sandesh 60, 2. Extraordinary (5) Sai Kiran 58, 3. Queen Spirit (3) Zervan 58, 4. Anakin (1) S. Saqlain 56.5, 5. Skyfire (6) Tousif 56.5, 6. Striking Memory (2) G. Vivek 55.5, 7. General Patton (9) Khurshad 54, 8. Osiris (4) Jagadeesh 51 and 9. Star Admiral (7) Neeraj 51.

1. ARTEMIS IGNACIA, 2. QUEENS SPIRIT, 3. STAR ADMIRAL

5 CHIEF MINISTER'S TROPHY (2,000m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 3-45: 1. Automatic (3) Srinath 60, 2. Karanveer (4) Trevor 60, 3. Silvarius (1) Antony 60 and 4. Speedster (2) Suraj 59.5.

1. SPEEDSTAR, 2. KARANVEER

6 WOLF777 BANGALORE OAKS (2,400m), 4-y-o fillies, (Terms), 4-15: 1. La Reina (3) Neeraj 57, 2. Mirra (6) Antony 57, 3. Philosophy (4) Sandesh 57, 4. Silver Canyon (5) Trevor 57, 5. Star Comet (8) C.S. Jodha 57, 6. Stellar Gold (1) I. Chisty 57, 7. Tough Cookie (7) P.S. Chouhan 57, 8. Triple Wish (9) Srinath 57 and 9. Victoria Punch (2) Suraj 57.

1. PHILOSOPHY, 2. VICTORIA PUNCH, 3. MIRRA

7 SARDAR SAROVAR PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-45: 1. Unique Style (9) Salman K 60.5, 2. Aherne (7) Darshan 58.5, 3. Step To Destiny (2) Srinath 57, 4. Roman Power (8) Antony 55, 5. Santorino (3) L.A. Rozario 55, 6. The Athabasca (10) Vivek 55, 7. Moving Ahead (4) R. Pradeep 54.5, 8. Mr Humble (5) Tousif 54.5, 9. Stunning Beauty (6) Sai Kiran 54.5 and 10. Mystical Merkabah (1) Kiran Rai 52.

1. SANTORINO, 2. STEP TO DESTINY, 3. ROMAN POWER

8 INDIRA SAGAR PLATE (DIV. I), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 6-y-o & over, 5-15: 1. Starry Wind (4) Md. Akram 62, 2. Panama (1) B. Dharshan 60.5, 3. Aceros (3) Salman K 60, 4. The Strength (7) Sai Kiran 59.5, 5. Baltimore (9) Likith Appu 59, 6. Chisox (8) L.A. Rozario 59, 7. Musterion (5) A. Imran 59, 8. Chain Of Thoughts (6) Darshan 58.5 and 9. Habanero (2) D. Patel 55.

1. STARRY WIND, 2. CHAIN OF THOUGHTS, 3. THE STRENGTH

Day's best: **CAPRIATI**

Double: **ARTEMIS IGNACIA – SANTORINO**

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 5, 6 and 7; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

Mohd. Sporting and Rajasthan United engaged in a 1-1 draw

I-LEAGUE

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Mohammedan Sporting and Rajasthan United score two late goals to draw 1-1 in a Hero I-League match here on Friday.

Sporting captain Marcus Joseph gave his side the lead in the 81st minute with a brilliant left-footer before his Rajasthan counterpart Joseba Beitia scored from the spot seven minutes later to share the spoils on a cold evening.

For the fourth match this season, the Kolkata side failed to hold on to its lead, adding just one point to its kitty.

Joseph, however, moved up to joint-third in the list of top-scorers with his fourth goal.

Chance missed

Sporting wasted an opportunity to bag three points, but coach Kibu Vicuna would recognise he owes this point more to Rajasthan's mistakes than anything else.

Beitia and his men created a lot of chances but could not convert them. In fact, the Spaniard himself wasted a penalty in the 29th minute before scoring with a scorching right-footer.

Apart from that, Rajasthan's Kyrgyz recruit Atai Dzhumashev was incredibly unlucky as two of his free-kicks in either half (6th and 76th minute) hit the crossbar and the post respectively.

Punam improves two National marks to claim 81kg gold.

Herculean effort: Punam made the 81kg triumph memorable by bettering two of her own marks.B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

NATL. WEIGHTLIFTING

K. Keerthivasan
NAGERCOIL

Railways' Punam Yadav created two new records to bag the 81kg gold medal in the National weightlifting championships here on Friday. The 27-year-old from Varanasi, a medallist in the 2014 & 2018 Commonwealth Games, lifted 100kg in snatch and had a total of 222.

The 27-year-old broke her own record in snatch (99) and total (220) set in the Visakhapatnam Nationals in 2019. Silver medallist Vansita Verma (Chandigarh)'s 123kg effort in clean and jerk bettered Swapna Priya Baruah's 121 mark set in the Visakhapatnam Nationals.

The results: Men: 102 kg: Senior: Kojum Taba (SSCB) 150, 185, 335; 2. Md. Jameir Hussain (Asm) 147, 188, 335; 3. Harcharan Singh (Raj) 151, 183, 334.

Junior: Aman (Har) 136, 170, 306; 2. Abhimanyu Panday (Pun) 123, 160, 283; 3. Goldy Khan (HP) 129, 153, 282.

Youth: 1. Aryan (Har) 130, 160, 290; 2. Goldy Khan (HP) 129, 153, 282; 3. A. Vishwa (TN) 115, 152, 267.

Women: +87kg: Senior: 1. Purnima Pandey (UP) 100, 113, 213; M.T. Ann Maria (RSPB) 86, 118, 204; 3. Monica (Raj) 89, 114, 203.

Junior: 1. M. Martina Devi (Man) 85, 115, 200; R. Gayatri (AP) 72, 98, 170; 3. Aahana Kapuria (Mah) 74, 89, 163.

87kg: Senior: 1. Akshata Kamati (Kar) 85, 121, 206; 2. B.N. Usha (RSPB) 90, 115, 205; 3. Komal Wakake (Mah) 90, 111, 201.

Junior: 1. Deeksha (Chd) 76, 97, 173; 2. Sonam Yadav (UP) 77, 95, 172; 3. Abhishikta Kaduluri (Odi) 73, 94, 167.

81kg: Senior: 1. Punam Yadav (RSPB) 100, 122, 222; 2. Vansita Verma (Chd) 90, 123, 213; 3. N. Lalitha (RSPB) 92, 116, 208.

Junior: Tamana (Har) 83, 116, 199; 2. Kalpana Yadav (UP) 86, 105, 191; 3. Amritha P Suni (Ker) 76, 96, 172.

Youth: 1. Amritha Saini (Ker) 76, 96, 172; 2. R. P. Keerthana (TN) 75, 90, 165; 3. Muskan (Har) 70, 88, 158.

+81kg: Youth: 1. M. Martina Devi (Man) 85, 115, 20; 2. K. Oviya (TN) 75, 95, 170; 3. Y. Chaitana Kumari (AP) 74, 88, 162.

TRAGIC

Former Italy striker Gianluca Vialli passes away aged 58

Gianluca Vialli, 58, the former Italy striker who helped Sampdoria and Juventus win Serie A and European trophies before becoming a player-manager at Chelsea, has died. Vialli, who earned 59 caps for Italy, was first diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2017. The Italian soccer federation confirmed Vialli's death on Friday.

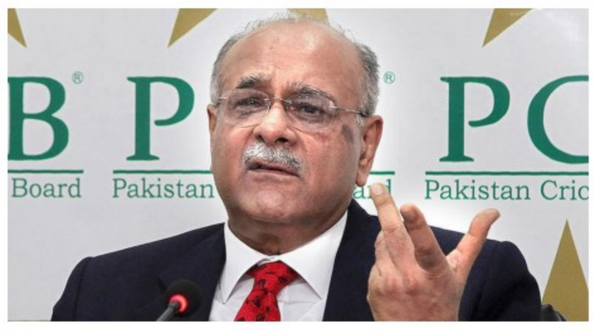
DAMP SQUIB

Day three of Sydney Test washed out by rain

Heavy rain washed out the third day of the already weather-disrupted third and final Test between Australia and South Africa at Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday. Play was soon called off after what would have been the tea break, with the rain forecast to continue for the rest of the day.

RIPOSTE

Asian Cricket Council hits back at Sethi on calendar issue



The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) on Friday hit back at Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Najam Sethi "vehemently denying baseless allegations" of unilateral decision making levelled against its president Jay Shah with regards to the continental body's two-year programme. The ACC stated that PCB was sent the itinerary on Dec. 22, 2022.

MOVING AHEAD

Mahrez earns City win at Chelsea to narrow gap with Arsenal

Second-half substitute Riyad Mahrez's 63rd minute strike, off a perfectly placed cross from fellow sub Jack Grealish, earned Manchester City a 1-0 victory at Chelsea in the Premier League on Thursday. The narrow win helped Pep Guardiola's side move to 39 points, just five points adrift of leader Arsenal.

India and Sri Lanka promise a life-and-death battle

There are a couple of faults the home side will hope to fix as it has not had the best of starts, sliding to 46 for three and 57 for five in the first two matches; rescue acts augur well for batting depth, but cannot become a regular occurrence

SRI LANKA IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
RAJKOT

India and Sri Lanka have provided undeniable entertainment in the first two T20Is of the series thus far. The third and series-deciding T20I, which will be held at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium here on Saturday, promises more thrilling fare.

The second T20I at Pune provided plenty of fireworks. Dasun Shanaka belted an unbeaten 22-ball 56 to take Sri Lanka to a winning total. India's Suryakumar Yadav and Axar Patel replied in kind, but it was not enough to prevent a 16-run Sri Lankan win.

Watching his step: Arshdeep needs to take corrective action to avoid a repeat of Thursday's over-stepping. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Up for a fight

The series opener at Mumbai was equally exciting, as India pulled off a last-ball victory.

The visitors are certainly up for a fight, and with all to play for on Saturday, India will have its task cut out.

There are a couple of faults that the home side will hope to fix. India has not had the best of starts when batting, sliding to 46 for three and and 57 for five in the first two matches. At Mumbai, Hardik Pandya, Deepak Hooda and Axar Patel did the repair job, while it was left to Suryakumar, Axar and Shivam Mavi to keep India in the hunt on Thursday.

While these rescue acts augur well for India's batting depth, it cannot become a regular occurrence.

Forgettable outing

Left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh would like to dismiss Thursday's horror show as an aberration. Arshdeep inexplicably bowled five no-balls in his two overs, which completely shifted the momentum Sri Lanka's way. The 23-year-old will have to watch his step on Saturday, especially since he dons the crucial role of death-over specialist.

It remains to be seen whether the SCA Stadium pitch will aid free-flowing shot-making. Batting did not come easy in the previous T20I held at this venue, in June last year. On a pitch with uneven bounce, South Africa was bundled out for 87 chasing India's 169 for six.

If the track offers spin, India has two quality tweakers in Axar and Yuzvendra Chahal who can do damage.

For India head coach Rahul Dravid, it is Axar's evolution as a quality batter that is most pleasing. "Axar's batting is coming on in leaps and bounds. We always knew his quality as a bowler; it was about developing his batting. He has been working hard on it. He has been with the team for more than a year now, and his batting is an area we had identified," Dravid said.

The former India captain stated there was no room to tinker with the playing eleven. "The boys who are in the eleven are already young. Ishan (Kishan) and Shubman (Gill) have got just two games. We will not be chopping and changing too much," Dravid said.

The teams:

India: Hardik Pandya (Capt.), Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav (Vice-Capt.), Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi and Mukesh Kumar.

Sri Lanka: Dasun Shanaka (Capt.), Wanindu Hasaranga (Vice-Capt.), Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Ashen Bandara, Maheesh Theekshana, Dilshan Madushanka, Kasun Rajitha, Avishka Fernando, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Lahiru Kumara, Nuwan Thushara, Dunith Wellalage and Pramod Madushan.

It is not easy learning in international cricket, says Dravid

Voicing views: While Hardik said no-balls in any format is a crime, Dravid said we need to be patient with kids. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

Seven no-balls and four wides. Besides the 11 extra balls and as many runs India conceded during the second T20I versus Sri Lanka on Thursday night, India also conceded a combined 22 extra runs off the seven free-hits to the Lankan batters.

With the margin of India's loss being 16 runs, the extras that the pacers conceded turned out to be the game-changer in a high-scoring affair at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

While captain Hardik Pandya had no qualms in admitting " no-balls in any format is a crime" during the post-match presentation, head coach Rahul Dravid did his best to stand by an inexperienced pace bowling unit.

"Especially in a T20 format game, they (extras) can hurt you. We need to be patient with these young kids. If you look at this team, there are a lot of youngsters in it, especially our bowling attack," Dravid said.

"We need to be understanding that games like this can happen. They are improving and keep working hard. We are trying to support them technically with whatever we can in terms of support and creating the right environment for them to be able to get the best out of their skill. It is tough, it is not easy learning in international cricket and you have to learn on the job."

Arshdeep Singh, playing his maiden game of the series after missing the series-opener due to an ailment, had a horror night. The left-arm pacer bowled five no-balls conceded 37 runs in his two overs. Shivam Mavi and Umran Malik, the other two young pacers playing their second and fifth T20I respectively, also bowled a no-ball each.

Dravid insisted that too much should not be read into the pacers' performance, with India looking to try out as many youngsters as possible.

Sarfaraz salvages fighting draw for Pakistan

Agence France-Presse
KARACHI

Pakistan's last pair Naseem Shah and Abrar Ahmed survived 21 balls in fading light, while Sarfaraz Ahmed hit a fighting century to deprive New Zealand of a victory, bringing the second Test to a sensational draw here on Friday.

New Zealand was in sight of a series-clinching win after dismissing Sarfaraz for 118 with 39 balls remaining in the match.

The scores: New Zealand 449 & 277/5 decl. drew with Pakistan408 &304/9 in 90 overs (Shan Masood 35, Sarfaraz Ahmed 118, Michael Bracewell 4/75). Two-match series drawn 0-0.

Costa's late header seals BFC's win

Press Trust of India
Guwahati

Alan Costa scored a late header as Bengaluru FC defeated NorthEast United FC 2-1 in an Indian Super League match here on Friday.

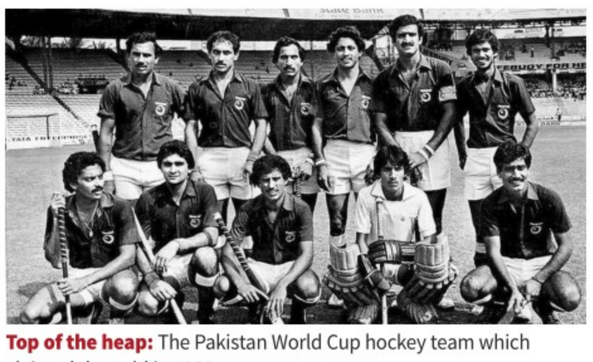
Brazilian defender Costa was the hero for Bengaluru once again, scoring in identical fashion with a header to seal all three points for his side.

The result:
Bengaluru FC 2 (Sivasakthi narayanan 50, Alan Costa 90+4) bt NorthEast United FC 1 (Romain Phillippoteaux 66).

After Pakistan's success in 1982, Asian dominance dissipates

WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI



Top of the heap: The Pakistan World Cup hockey team which claimed the gold in 1982. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

1982, Bombay (Dec. 29, 1981-Jan. 12, 1982)

Spread across 1981-82, it saw Pakistan extend its reign as World Champions with a third title, made sweeter by coming on Indian soil. Pakistan followed it up with gold at the 1984 Olympics, becoming the only country to not just hold both titles at the same time but do so twice in the sport's history.

The Indians, meanwhile, struggled with off-field issues and poor administration that continued for to mar Indian hockey for almost three decades. The team protested its lodging at the Wankhede Stadium when other teams got luxury hotel accommodation. Losses to Holland and Australis put India out of semifinal contention and it beat erstwhile Soviet Union for fifth spot in the last international tournament to be played on natural grass.

Top three: Pakistan, West Germany, Australia; **India:** Fifth.

1986, London (Oct. 4-19)

The worst performance by Asia and the beginning of the end of the continent's dominance in a new era of the sport with both India and Pakistan failing to reach the semifinals for the first time ever. Both teams managed a single win in their respective groups, facing off for the wooden spoon with India coming last in the competition.

The only bright spot for India was Mohd. Shahid being named Player-of-the-Tournament despite the team's dismal show. Australia consolidated its dominance after two consecutive bronze medals, finishing on top of the group without a loss, thrashing Soviet Union 5-0 in the semifinals and defeating England to avenge its 1984 Olympics defeat in the final with a 2-1 win for its maiden World Cup title.

Top three: Australia, England, West Germany; **India:** 12th.

Bonzi takes on Griekspoor in a clash between two first-time finalists

TATA OPEN

N. Sudarshan
PUNE

It will be a battle between two first-time ATP Tour finalists when Benjamin Bonzi takes on Tallon Griekspoor in the singles summit clash of the Tata Open Maharashtra on Saturday.

In the semifinals on Friday, Bonzi took out his third seeded opponent in a row – after Emil Ruusuvuori and Filip Krajinovic – sending home the tournament's second seed Botic van de Zandschulp 7-6(5), 6-7 (5), 6-1.

Griekspoor, who came into the contest against Aslan Karatsev after a day's rest owing to Marin Cilic's pull out, beat the eighth seed 7-6(4), 6-1.

He was helped in no small measure by the Russian's total implosion in the second set, that witnessed a slew of double faults, a stare into the eyes of an onlooker who unwittingly tried to coach him out of his slump and a mangled racquet.

On a roll: Bonzi took out a seeded opponent thrice in a row, this time second seed van de Zandschulp. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Tennis-wise, the Bonzi-van de Zandschulp match was more compelling. The Dutchman was a break down in each of the three sets, but managed to claw his way back in the first two before withering away in the third.

Bonzi was aggressive from the get-go, with his two-fisted backhand drive proving the money shot. After clinching the first set in a tiebreak - on his fourth setpoint - he went a break up in the first game of the second when van de Zandschulp met a volley a tad early and dumped it into the net.

It was roughly the time the floodlights started taking effect and van de Zandschulp lifted his level, with his power-packed serve built on minimal movement kicking into action and his deceptively fierce forehand doing much damage. The World No. 35 held serve from 0-30 at 2-4 and broke Bonzi to level at 4-4 and ended the ensuing tiebreak with a ferocious service winner.

In the decider however, van de Zandschulp faded, quite dramatically, losing serve twice and falling behind 0-5. It was a point of no return. "May be he was a bit down physically," Bonzi said later.

"I was focused on not losing my serve and the second break made it easier."

In doubles, the Indian pair of Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan made it to their first ATP Tour-level final together, beating Brits Julian Cash and Henry Patten 6-4, 7-5. They will meet Belgium's Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen, who defeated the top-seeded pair of Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury 7-6(3), 7-6(4).

The results (semifinals):

Singles: Tallon Griekspoor (Ned) bt 8-Aslan Karatsev 7-6 (4), 6-1; Benjamin Bonzi (Fra) bt 2-Botic van de Zandschulp (Ned) 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 6-1.

Doubles: Sander Gille & Joran Vliegen (Bel) bt 1-Rajeev Ram (USA) & Joe Salisbury (GBR) 7-6(3), 7-6(4); Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Julian Cash & Henry Patten (GBR) 6-4, 7-5.

INBRIEF

Bayern signs Daley Blind to cover for injured Hernandez

Bayern Munich signed veteran Dutch defender Daley Blind to cover for the injured Lucas Hernandez. Blind was a free agent after he was released by Ajax last week with six months left on his contract, and he joins German champion Bayern on a short-term deal until the end of the season after completing a medical examination in Munich. Blind played for Manchester United between 2014-18, where he won the FA Cup and the Europa League, and has won seven Dutch titles over two spells at Ajax. He has played 99 times for the Netherlands, including all five of its games at the World Cup in Qatar.

Pulisic hurts right knee, joins Chelsea's long injury list

Christian Pulisic joined Chelsea's long injury list after hurting his right knee while attempting a shot on goal in the 1-0 loss to Manchester City. The United States winger required treatment after appearing to jar his knee as City defender John Stones made a last-ditch tackle midway through the first half. On Pulisic, Chelsea manager Graham Potter said there was "contact with his knee" and wasn't able to give a time-frame for any possible absence.

Padikkal included in Ranji squad to play Rajasthan

Devdutt Padikkal has been added to the Karnataka squad which will take on Rajasthan in the Ranji Trophy Elite Group 'C' match which commences at Alur ground here on Tuesday. Padikkal, who last played a match in October last year, was out of action due to an illness. Fast bowler Ronit More, who missed the Chhattisgarh fixture due to an injury, is not part of the squad. His replacement, M. Venkatesh, keeps his spot.

The squad: Mayank Agarwal (capt.), R. Samarth (vice-capt.), Nikin Jose, Devdutt Padikkal, Manish Pandey, K.V. Siddharth, B.R. Sharath, Sharath Srinivas, K. Gowtham, Shreyas Gopal, V. Koushik, Vidwath Kaverappa, V. Vyshak, M. Venkatesh, Shubhang Hegde, Vishal Onat.

Karnataka registers a facile seven wkt. victory

After pacer Vyshak scalps his maiden First Class five-for to dismiss Chhattisgarh for 177, the home batters finish the task of getting to the target in 23.2 overs

RANJI TROPHY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

A relentless Karnataka broke down the Chhattisgarh walls to record a seven-wicket win in the Ranji Trophy Elite Group 'C' here on Friday.

The Karnataka bowling did the major damage in the morning session, dismissing Chhattisgarh for 177. That left Karnataka with the comfortable task of getting 123 runs in 32 overs. Nikin Jose (44 n.o., 59b, 1x4, 2x6), Manish Pandey (27, 24b, 2x4, 2x6) and R. Samarth (24, 40b) kept the score moving to finish the match in 23.2 overs.

The win took Karnataka (19 points) to the top of the points table.

Bowlers to the fore

The positive result was set up by the Karnataka bowlers, and fast bowler Vyshak Vijaykumar (5/59) in particular.

Vyshak made a dent by dismissing Ashutosh Singh (18) and Amandeep Khare (50) – the batting mainstays in the Chhattisgarh line-up.

He induced an edge from Ashutosh early in the day, and rattled the stumps of Khare. Vyshak hastened a quick end to the visitor's essay when he removed Shashank Singh, Ajay Mandal and Sourabh Majumdar.

Vyshak bowled with pace, and more importantly, kept it in the right areas. When he took out Majumdar's middle stump, Vyshak celebrated his maiden First Class five-for by kissing the ball.

If the Chhattisgarh batters had hung around for another couple of hours, a draw would have been in plain sight.

Nailed him! Vyashak is all pumped up after breaching the defence of one of his five victims.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Instead, Karnataka was on the march, heading for an outright win.

Defensive tactics

With a little less than four per over needed, Karnataka only needed to bat sensibly to get the job done. Chhattisgarh left-arm spinners Ajay Mandal and Sumit Ruikar took the new ball, and bowled outside leg stump.

The defensive tactic worked for a brief while, as the batters were forced to play unorthodox sweeps and reverse-sweeps with little success.

Runs only started to flow when Samarth, Jose and Pandey chose to focus on taking the singles and doubles. A couple of sixes and fours from Pandey late in the day was all that was needed for Chhattisgarh to wave the white flag.

The scores: Chhattisgarh — 1st innings: 311.
Karnataka — 1st innings: 366.
Chhattisgarh — 2nd innings: Avnish Singh b Kaverappa 0, Tiwary c Sharath b Koushik 0, Ashutosh Singh c Samarth b Vyshak 18, Amandeep Khare b Vyshak 50, Harpreet Bhatia b Gowtham 8, Mayank Verma lbw b Shreyas 46, Shashank Singh c (sub) Srinivas b Vyshak 12, Ajay Mandal b Vyshak 13, Sumit Ruikar c Pandey b Gowtham 18, Ravi Kiran (not out) 1, Sourabh Majumdar b Vyshak 6; Extras (b-4, w-1): 5; Total (in 77.5 overs): 177.
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-0, 3-60, 4-75, 5-91, 6-121, 7-141, 8-170, 9-170.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 16-5-27-1, Koushik 12-4-24-1, Vyshak 18.5-4-59-5, Gowtham 17-5-41-2, Shreyas 13-3-21-1, Samarth 1-0-1-0.
Karnataka — 2nd innings: R. Samarth run out 24, Mayank Agarwal c Kiran b Ruikar 14, Nikin Jose (not out)44, Manish Pandey c Mandal b Ruikar 27, K. Gowtham (not out) 2; Extras (b-11, lb-6): 17; Total (for three wkts. in 23.2 overs): 128.
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-62, 3-100.
Chhattisgarh bowling: Mandal 11.2-0-70-0, Ruikar 11-0-35-2, Kiran 1-0-6-0.
Karnataka won by seven wickets.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES (ROUND FOUR, FINAL DAY)

Elite: Group A: Nagaland 433 & 120/1 in 32 overs (Yugandhar Singh 53 n.o., Joshua Ozukum 56) drew with Odisha 535/8 decl. in 146.1 overs (Anurag Sarangi 84, Shantanu Mishra 200 n.o., Subhranshu Senapati 67, Govinda Poddar 41, Prayash Singh 104, Akash Singh 4/73). **Points: Odisha 3 (7), Nagaland 1 (1).**

Bengal 387 & 206/7 decl. in 58 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 82 n.o., Sudip Kumar Gharami 72, Mayank Mishra 4/99) drew with Uttarakhand 272 & 69/0 in 23 overs (Avneesh Sudha 54 n.o.). **Bengal 3 (19), Uttarakhand 1 (20).**

Haryana 365 drew with Uttar Pradesh 197 in 55.1 overs (Priyam Garg 64, Shivam Sharma 41 n.o.) & 72/1 in 12 overs. **Haryana 3 (5), UP 1 (8).**

Baroda 355 & 216/6 in 86 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 50, Pratyush Kumar 59, Gurvinder Singh 5/59) drew with Himachal Pradesh 561/8 decl. in 172 overs (Raghav Dhawan 56, Prashant Chopra 159, Ankit Kalsi 145, Amit Kumar 81, Praveen Thakur 50 n.o., Ninad Rathva 4/127). **HP 3 (11), Baroda 1 (13).**

Group B: Andhra 135 & 462 bt Hyderabad 197 & 246 in 73.3 overs (Rohit Rayudu 46, Chandan Sahani 56, K.V. Sasikanth 5/68). **Andhra 6 (12), Hyderabad 0 (1).**

Assam 274 & 309/6 in 121.3 overs (Kunal Saikia 52 retd. hurt, Rishav Das 114 n.o., Sidharth Sarmah 53) drew with Maharashtra 594/9 decl. **Maharashtra 3 (16), Assam 1 (11).**

Tamil Nadu 144 & 548 in 162.5 overs (B. Sai Sudharsan 68, B. Indrajith 103, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 169, Vijay Shankar 103, Tanush Kotian 4/129) drew with Mumbai 481 & 137/3 in 24.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 66 n.o.). **Mumbai 3 (16), TN 1 (7).**

Group C: Chhattisgarh 311 & 177 in 77.5 overs (Amandeep Khare 50, Mayank Verma 46, Vijaykumar Vyshak 5/59) lost to Karnataka 366 & 128/3 in 23.2 overs (Nikin Jose 44 n.o.). **Karnataka 6 (19), Chhattisgarh 0 (13).**

Pondicherry 216 & 313 in 96.3 overs (K.B. Arun Karthik 130, Krishna Pandey 64) lost to Services 466/7 decl. & 67/5 in 13.2 overs. **Services 6 (7), Pondicherry 0 (0).**

Kerala 265 & 200 in 62.3 overs (Rohan Prem 70, Mohit Redkar 6/73) lost to Goa 311 & 157/3 in 48.3 overs (Ishaan Gadekar 67 n.o.). **Goa 6 (11), Kerala 0 (13).**

Jharkhand 92 & 470/9 decl. in 153 overs (Kumar Deobrat 48, Aryaman Sen 119, Saurabh Tiwary 78, Kumar Kushagra 48, Anukul Roy 125) drew with Rajasthan 287 & 194/4 in 33 overs (Yash Kothari 95). **Rajasthan 3 (14), Jharkhand 1 (10).**

Group D: Chandigarh 455/3 in 114.4 overs (Arslan Khan 73, Manan Vohra 200, Kunal Mahajan 162 n.o.) drew with Tripura. **Tripura 1 (7), Chandigarh 1 (2).**

Madhya Pradesh 309 & 257/5 decl. bt Vidarbha 160 & 201 in 73.1 overs (Faiz Fazal 65, Avesh Khan 5/44, Gaurav Yadav 4/61). **MP 6 (26), Vidarbha 0 (12).**

Plate: Meghalaya 610/6 decl. & 132/3 decl. bt Arunachal Pradesh 331 & 185 in 64 overs (Rahul Dalal 96, Arbin Singh 5/42). **Meghalaya 6 (25), Arunachal Pradesh 0 (0).**

Sikkim 157 & 122/4 in 47 overs (Anwesh Sharma 50 n.o.) drew with Bihar 157 in 39.3 overs (Sakibul Gani 57, Palzor Tamang 4/65, Sumit Singh 6/63). **Sikkim 1 (13), Bihar 1 (11).**

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs South Africa: 3rd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 a.m.
NBA: Sports 18-1, MTV (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.30 a.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 p.m.
Tata Open: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 3 p.m. onwards
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5.30 & 7.30 p.m.
India vs Sri Lanka: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.45 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 p.m.

USA and Italy take handy leads

UNITED CUP

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

A "helpless" Iga Swiatek was left in tears after Jessica Pegula stunned the World No. 1 Friday, while Greece's sixth-ranked Maria Sakkari also crashed to defeat in the semifinals of the inaugural United Cup here.

Less than two weeks before the Australian Open, Poland's Swiatek had no answers to the American's powerful serve and searing returns, slumping 6-2, 6-2 in a deflating 71-minute defeat. Italy also raced 2-0 clear in its semifinal against Greece, with a fired-up Martina Trevisan upsetting Sakkari 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-5 in a gruelling 3hr 14min epic.

The results (semifinals):
USA leads Poland 2-0 {Jessica Pegula bt Iga Swiatek 6-2, 6-2; Frances Tiafoe bt Kacper Zuk 6-3, 6-3}.
Italy leads Greece 2-0 {Martina Trevisan bt Maria Sakkari 6-3, 6-7(4), 7-5; Lorenzo Musetti bt Stefanos Sakellaridis 6-1, 6-1}.